MEMORIAL ART GALLERY EXHIBITIONS: 2009

Through March 29, 2009
Leaded: The Materiality and Metamorphosis of Graphite

Although they do work with graphite—the “lead” in drawing pencils—the 16 contemporary artists in this nationally touring exhibition “draw” in only the loosest sense of the word. Some build up layers to create an image, while others are more interested in what remains after they obliterate their medium. Several even treat graphite as a sculptural entity, among them The Art Guys from MAG’s own 2006 show Extreme Materials. Forty-four intriguing works guide visitors on an unexpected journey beyond the act of mark-making.

Developed by the University of Richmond Museums, VA, and organized for tour by International Arts and Artists, Washington, DC. In Rochester, underwritten by Lynne Lovejoy with additional support from an anonymous donor.

Through March 29, 2009
Gregory Van Maanen: The Happy Survivor

Self-taught artist Gregory Van Maanen began painting after his return from a tour of duty in Vietnam, largely as a way of exorcising the demons he brought home from the war. Today, his body of work—which he describes as “self-preservation sometimes shared with others”—includes several thousand paintings and drawings, as well as sculptures and mixed-media works. Powerful and haunting, Van Maanen’s works may at first seem frightening, but the artist sees them as “good magic”—talismans intended to keep evil at bay. Many feature spirits rendered as skeletal heads and objects that could be eyes, fireworks, alien spaceships, mouths with sharp teeth, bleeding hearts—or maybe all of these things. Often painted on found materials and framed in thrift store cast-offs, they resonate with the artist’s respect for humanity and belief in the healing power of art.
April 19–June 28, 2009 (exhibition party April 18)
GlassWear
Transparency, fluidity, sharpness, fragility and reflection—these are among the properties of glass exploited by 60 leading artists in an exhibition that celebrates the marriage of glass and jewelry. The artists come from the US, Germany, Italy, UK, Japan and South Africa, but there is no better stage for their work than western New York, home of RIT’s School for American Crafts and the artistic centers of Alfred and Corning.

Organized by the Museum of Arts & Design (NYC) and Schmuckmuseum Pforzheim (Germany). It is made possible in Rochester by Linda and Robert Fox, the Gallery Council of the Memorial Art Gallery, and the Thomas and Marion Hawks Memorial Fund.

April 19–June 28, 2009 (exhibition party April 18)
A Unity of Opposites: Recent Work by Michael Taylor
Michael Taylor’s recent work is the culmination of 40 years of investigating light, form, and design through the medium of glass. MAG is the only venue for this exhibition, which will showcase a dozen glass sculptures, including monumental works composed of hundreds of individual pieces, as well as prints and maquettes. Taylor is former head of the glass department at Rochester Institute of Technology.

This exhibition is underwritten by Lynne Lovejoy, with additional support from Mr. and Mrs. Robert D. Hursh, Aaron Klein and Maria Lauriello-Klein, the Art Alliance for Contemporary Glass, and the Thomas and Marion Hawks Memorial Fund.

July 26–October 4, 2009 (exhibition party July 25)
62nd Rochester-Finger Lakes Exhibition
Summers at MAG are dedicated to the art of upstate New York. This year, don’t miss Rochester’s oldest and most prestigious regional exhibition. Like the Rochester Biennial (offered in alternate years), the Rochester-Finger Lakes Exhibition showcases work by emerging and established artists. But unlike the Biennial, an invitational, works in Finger Lakes are selected by guest jurors from hundreds of entries.

October 25, 2009–January 3, 2010 (exhibition party October 24)
Paint Made Flesh
This exhibition brings together 40 powerful American and European works, all created since the 1950s, that explore the biological, psychological or spiritual volatility of the human figure. The works, by such painters as Georg Baselitz, Hyman Bloom, William De Kooning, Marlene Dumas, Lucien Freud, Alice Neel, A. R. Penck, Pablo Picasso and Jenny Saville, employ a wide range of painterly effects to suggest the carnal properties of human flesh, as well as its metaphorical significance. MAG is one of only two tour stops for this show organized by the Frist Center for the Visual Arts in Nashville.

LOCKHART GALLERY
Through April 19, 2009
Lincoln in Rochester
This exhibition celebrates the life and legacy of America’s 16th President, Abraham Lincoln, on the 200th anniversary of his birth. Curated by MAG director Grant Holcomb, it includes more than 40 artworks, artifacts and memorabilia from area collections including the Memorial Art Gallery, George Eastman House, Rochester Historical Society, Rochester Museum & Science Center, Seward House Museum, Strong National Museum of Play, and University of Rochester Rare Books & Special Collections.

Made possible by the Chester and Dorris Carlson Charitable Fund.
Presented in honor of the City of Rochester’s 175th anniversary.
May 2–August 2, 2009
Maira Kalman: The Elements of Style

Israeli-born artist Maira Kalman moved to New York with her family at age four. With no formal training, she has worked as a designer, author and illustrator for more than 30 years. Among her many projects are New Yorker magazine covers and illustrations (notably the 2001 “NewYorkistan” cover, a collaboration with Rick Meyerowitz); a dozen children’s books; and the book The Principles of Uncertainty, based on her monthly illustrated column for The New York Times. This show includes the original gouache illustrations for another recent project, a 2005 edition of Strunk and White’s classic writer’s handbook, The Elements of Style.

This exhibition is made possible by Lynne Lovejoy and presented in memory of Bill Buckett, president of the Memorial Art Gallery Board of Managers, 1996–98.

LONG-TERM INSTALLATIONS

Protected for Eternity: The Coffins of Pa-debehu-Aset

This interactive exhibit for all ages showcases a rare pair of lavishly decorated nesting coffins that once held the mummy of an Egyptian official. Learn how the coffins were restored, write your name in hieroglyphs and follow the fascinating process of mummification. Protected for Eternity will close in mid-August, but by late November, the coffins and other Egyptian objects will be back on view on MAG’s second floor, in the newly refurbished Arts of Ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome.

This installation is made possible by funding from Dan and Dorothy Gill. Additional support is provided by the Museum Loan Network, a program administered by MIT’s Office of the Arts, funded by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts; and by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York Council for the Humanities and the Davenport-Hatch Foundation, Inc.

Seeing America

Spanning four centuries and occupying 7,000 square feet on the Gallery’s first floor, this new installation brings together some of the finest works in the collection as it constitutes what chief curator Marjorie Searl calls “a journey in space and time.” The 114 works range from treasures of the Colonial era to politically charged mixed-media pieces by contemporary artists.

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