

ARTiculate



MEMORIAL ART GALLERY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2017

WENDELL CASTLE

THE ARTIST SPEAKS ON
RANDOMNESS AND RISK

KIYOCHIKA

JAPANESE CULTURE
TRANSFORMED

MUSEUM OF THE DEAD



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27

8-MIDNIGHT | 21+ | \$20 (advance) \$25 (day of)

ADMISSION INCLUDES ONE SIGNATURE COCKTAIL OR BEER

PURCHASE TICKETS AT MAG.ROCHESTER.EDU/MUSEUMOFTHEDAD

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 MAG
MEMORIAL ART GALLERY
UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER



MAG

Voices

Come October, once the University has been in session for a month, I enjoy seeing MAG become a classroom bustling with students of all disciplines discovering works of art. As Assistant Curator of Academic Programs and MAG's primary liaison to faculty and students from the University of Rochester, I welcomed over 2,000 people to the museum's University Connections programs during

the last academic year. These included specially designed visits to MAG for UR classes, as well as lectures, symposia and performances developed in collaboration with UR faculty and students.

The MAG collection and special exhibitions are relevant to a wide range of research areas from the Writing, Speaking and Argument Program to the Department of Mathematics, which, last November, sponsored an engaging lecture by UR alumna Dr. Doris Schattschneider in tandem with the special exhibition *M.C. Escher: Reality and Illusion*. An encounter with a work of art, no matter its age, always has the potential to spur new and innovative ideas. As one student reflected on a recent visit, "One thing I learned from going to the MAG was the idea to let my guard down and not to overthink... that beauty lies in the emotions and impulses initiated when observing."

This year, we hope to build on these successes. On October 5th we are excited to celebrate *Before Pictures*, the recently

"THE MAG COLLECTION AND SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS ARE RELEVANT TO A WIDE RANGE OF RESEARCH AREAS"

published memoir and cultural history of New York in the 1970s by Douglas Crimp, the Fanny Knapp Professor of Art History at UR. And after a well-received debut last winter, MAG will present its second College Night on Thursday, November 16th—students from Rochester area colleges receive free admission to the museum, and can enjoy the technical virtuosity of *Wendell Castle Remastered*, a pop-up interactive sound installation and socializing among 5,000 years of world art. As UR's motto says: Meliora!

Andrew Cappetta
Assistant Curator of Academic Programs

Thursday, October 5 7:00 PM

An Evening with Douglas Crimp

Free and open to the public. Come celebrate artist/critic Douglas Crimp's recently published memoir of New York in the 1970s, *Before Relations*. Book will be available for purchase.

Friday, October 6

5:00-9:00 PM

\$2.50 admission
Hidden Passions Season 4 kids off!

6:15-7:45 PM

Art Social - Simple Prints

\$20 Includes museum admission

Sunday, October 8

Wendell Castle Remastered opens

Noon-5:00 PM

Hispanic Heritage Family Fun Day

\$5 Suggested donation per family
Sponsored by the Gallery Council of the Memorial Art Gallery

Wednesday, October 11 4:30-7:00 PM

Wendell Castle Remastered: Teacher In-Service

Specialty for Educators. Call 585.276.8971 to register
Join artist and Creative Workshop Instructor Eddie Davis III and M&G staff for an evening of drawing and designing prototype models inspired by the latest work of Wendell Castle. Program will include classroom ideas and materials.

Friday, October 27 8:00 PM-Midnight

Museum of the Dead III

\$20 (pre-sale) | \$25 (day-of) | 2+

Friday, November 3 6:15-7:45 PM

Art Social - Watercolor Resists

\$20 Includes museum admission

7:00-9:00 PM

Fine Craft Show and Sale Opening Party

\$50 Includes museum admission
Call for tickets 585-276-8910

Saturday, November 4 10:00 AM-5:00 PM

Fine Craft Show and Sale

\$10 Includes museum admission

Sunday, November 5 11:00 AM-4:00 PM

Fine Craft Show and Sale

\$10 Includes museum admission

Sunday, November 12 2:00 PM

"An Egyptian Landscape in Pompeii"

This year's Nancy S. & Peter O. Brown Guest Lecture in the Arts Architecture of Ancient Civilizations will host Dr. Caitlin Barrett, Assistant Professor in the Department of Classics at Cornell University.

Wednesday, November 15 4:30-7:00 PM

Kiyochika & Japan, Transformed: Teacher In-Service



Specialty for Educators. Call 585.276.8971 to register
Join artist Elizabeth King Durand and M&G staff for a close look at the work of Kobayashi Kiyochika, a printmaker, in rapidly changing 19th century Japan. Program will include printing activity and classroom resources.

Sunday, November 19 2:00 PM

Embracing Upheaval: a Talk with Wendell Castle

Wendell Castle speaks about his life, career and art.

HIDDEN PASSIONS



10/6/17 @ 7 pm

DR. BRIAN BAILEY
Professor of Business and Music, Provost

&


DR. KISHAN PANDYA
Physician and Musician

SEASON 4 COMMENCES NOVEMBER 9 @ 7 PM

FREE TO MAG MEMBERS
\$7.50 INCLUDES MUSEUM ADMISSION

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Thursdays 5:00–9:00 PM

1/2 Price Admission

- Docent-led tours - 6:00 PM
- MAG DeTOUR - 6:00 PM/ \$10 (includes museum admission)
 - October 19: *Paranormal MAG*
 Hunt for ghosts in the galleries with MCA
 - November 16: *Writings on the Wall: Art and Literature*
- Gallery Store shopping
- Third Thursday Concerts - 7:30 PM
 - Oct. 26: *Music in Secret: Early Italian Convent Music*
 - Nov. 16: *Te Deum Hymnus*
- Special Events

October 26: *Alternative Music Film Series (free)*

November 9: *Hidden Passions (free with admission)*
Miguel A. Cardona, Jr.: Professor/Coffee Cup Sketcher
Jacob Rakovan: Craft Cocktail Bartender/Poetry Curator

November 16: *Alternative Music Film Series (free)*

November 16: *MAG College Night (free w/ valid College ID)*
Students from Rochester area colleges receive free admission to the museum, and can enjoy the technical virtuosity of *Wendell Castle Remastered*, a pop-up interactive sound installation, and socializing among 5,000 years of world art.

- Art Social - 6:15 PM/ \$20
 - October 5: *Not so Still Life*
 - October 19: *Watercolor Wonders*
 - October 26: *Zentangled Up*
 - November 2: *Quick Portraits*
 - November 9: *Paper Dolls for Grown-ups*
 - November 16: *Collage Creativity*
 - November 30: *Holiday Cards*
- Food & drink available for purchase from Brown Hound Downtown

Saturdays

Noon–2:00 PM

Kids Create Dates - \$10/Child

Fun hands-on art projects for kids from 4-14 inside MAG's front entrance.

Sundays

1:00 PM & 3:00 PM

Going For Baroque Organ Concerts

Free with museum admission

Right: Wendell Castle seated in Long Night 2011. Courtesy of Friedman/Bonds Gallery and Wendell Castle. Photo by Sofia Hillis.



A WORD ON RANDOMNESS

WRITTEN BY WENDELL CASTLE

I have often thought about the randomness of the cosmos. My life it seems has been a series of random events. Chance events play a much larger role in life than most of us think. Randomness often plays out in subtle ways. In the world of art, most career paths entail a complex sequence of steps, each of which depends on those preceding it. If any of those earlier steps had been different, the entire career path would almost surely have been different, too. Some of those initial steps will have been influenced by seemingly trivial, random events. But randomness will, at times, place us in some very fortunate space/time convergence and just such an event happened to me in 1965.

The University of Rochester's Memorial Art Gallery helped me find that tiny hole in the universe shaped like me. In 1965, the *Rochester-Finger Lakes Exhibition* was juried; it was open to both arts and crafts. That year, I was awarded the top prize, which in those days was a one-person exhibition at MAG and the purchase of my winning piece for the permanent collection. One year later my exhibition was mounted and my career was underway. I cannot possibly express how important that was. At that time I was undecided as to whether I should be a furniture maker or a sculptor in the more traditional sense. The success of this exhibition helped make that decision. That year preparing for the exhibition I came to understand the importance of taking a risk. I was doing something for the first time. I am still doing things for the first time. We should be doing something





Wendell Castle with Charles Hays, 2015. Courtesy of Rialman Books and Wendell Castle. Photo by Dan Kelle.

we don't know how to do. Art requires the artist to care, and to care enough to do something even when we suspect that it might not be successful. The support from the MAG did not stop there. From then on I have been included in more exhibitions than I can mention, even a retrospective in the late 80s. Right now, it's the future that excites me. In October,

my exhibition *Wendell Castle Remastered* will be mounted at the Memorial Art Gallery. Nobody accomplishes anything of importance without the help of others, not rock stars, not geniuses, or movie stars. Many have given me a leg-up, and at the top of that list is the Memorial Art Gallery. Thank you..... thank you.

A random event, my discovering art, gave my life purpose. I'm blessed to have the three things that Malcolm Gladwell has suggested make work meaningful and satisfying: autonomy, complexity and a connection between effort and reward. It's not about how much money we make; it's about whether the work fulfills us. I've had more yesterdays than I will have tomorrows. It does not worry me that I don't know what those tomorrows will bring. Art, like life itself, is a voyage of discovery, and I'm sure the MAG will continue to figure in there somewhere.

APRIL 18, 2017. THE WITMER HOUSE, UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER.

Blanket Chest, 1963, was Wendell Castle's first work ever to be accepted into a museum collection. It was first shown at MAG in the 1965 Rochester-Finger Lakes Exhibition, and is featured again in the artist's latest exhibition, Wendell Castle Remastered.



Wendell Castle, *Blanket Chest*, 1963. Chest 36.5" x 32" x 21". The Mr. and Mrs. James Billy Wilson Purchase Award, Rochester-Finger Lakes Exhibition, 1965.

MARTYRS

Written by Andrew Cappetta | Assistant Curator of Academic Programs



Pioneering video artist Bill Viola's *Martyrs* (*Earth, Air, Fire, Water*), 2014, is the latest acquisition and exhibition in MAG's three-year Media Arts Watch program. Viola (American, b. 1951) has earned international acclaim for his visually stunning productions, which often employ extreme slow motion as a means of linking his moving images to the measured experience of observing paintings. Originally commissioned by London's St. Paul's Cathedral, *Martyrs* consists of four high-definition videos on flat screens, each featuring a single figure who sustains the impact of one of the four classical elements. The four moving images are synchronized and unfold together to create a coherent whole.

Martyrs is rooted in art historical and religious iconography. The figures' gestures; the rich, high-contrast color palette; and the slow-paced movement all reveal influence from European Renaissance and Baroque Christian imagery. However, as Viola explains, he looks to these traditions to understand contemporary

issues: "The Greek word for martyr originally meant 'witness.' In today's world, the mass media turns us all into witnesses to the suffering of others. The martyrs' past lives of action can help illuminate our modern lives of inaction. They also exemplify the human capacity to bear pain, hardship, and even death in order to remain faithful to their values, beliefs, and principles. This piece represents ideas of action, fortitude, perseverance, endurance, and sacrifice."

MAG is the only institution, public or private, in the U.S. to own this ambitious installation, which is regarded internationally as one of the artist's most powerful and significant works to date. Don't miss your chance to see *Martyrs* at MAG this fall!

**MARTYRS IS
ON VIEW IN
THE MEDIA
ARTS WATCH
GALLERY FROM
OCTOBER 11,
2017 THROUGH
JULY 2018.**

With *Kiyochika and Japan, Transformed*, MAG is pleased to present its third exhibition of Japanese color woodblock prints drawn from the extraordinary collection of University of Rochester alumnus Arthur R. Miller, UR '56, '08 (LLD). The exhibition showcases the work of the printmaker Kobayashi Kiyochika (1847–1915), who witnessed firsthand the extraordinary transformation of late 19th-century Japan. On September 3, 1868, his birthplace—the city of Edo, known for its samurai culture, entertainment, and pleasure districts—ceased to exist when it was renamed Tokyo, or “Eastern Capital,” by the country’s new Meiji leaders. In a self-imposed exile, Kiyochika followed the last shogun to Shizuoka until 1874; upon his return to Tokyo, he found an unrecognizable world, a place transformed by railroads, steamships, gaslight and telegraph lines.

Kiyochika & Japan, Transformed



WRITTEN BY HANCY NORWOOD | CURATOR OF EUROPEAN ART

Kiyochika's prints are marked by his innovative methods of juxtaposing images and moods of his rapidly changing world. As a self-taught artist, he was able to visually synthesize the art of Japan and the West in novel and unexpected ways. He pushed the limits of the color woodblock medium to mimic the Western printmaking techniques of lithography and engraving gaining popularity in Meiji Japan. And, although he drew on traditional themes such as landscapes, actors and beauties from the earlier Edo period, Kiyochika also focused on the transformative effects of light and shadow, depicting subjects from both the old and new worlds at dawn, dusk and night. The result was the development of a painterly visual vocabulary that accommodated a new way of seeing the never-before-seen.

**KIYOCHIKA AND JAPAN, TRANSFORMED IS ON VIEW IN
THE LOCKHART GALLERY THROUGH DECEMBER 10.**



HONORING THE DOCENTS

WRITER BY MARLENE BARNHART-WHITMORE | MCHERIDON DIRECTOR OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

After many years of hosting a wonderful array of exhibitions on ideas and images too numerous to mention, the Grand Gallery reopens at the beginning of October, totally refurbished, with a stellar exhibition dedicated to the work of Wendell Castle. How exciting and appropriate that it has been renamed the Docent Gallery in honor of MAG's amazing volunteers! MAG's docents have invested countless hours learning about works of art on view, and transforming their knowledge and enthusiasm into engaging experiences for our visitors.

During this past fiscal year alone, docents toured 10,420 K-12 students, and over 1,000 visitors on public tours. They also helped tour 396 visitors—families from the Rochester City School District—on two Title 1 Family Days during the February and April school breaks. Specially trained docents also assisted with tours for Meet Me at the MAG (513 visitors with Alzheimer's or dementia, and their

caregivers) and helped lead tours for over 500 students from UR's School of Medicine and Dentistry, UR's School of Nursing, and other regional healthcare training programs. All told, this is one smart, active, and dedicated group!

The current organization of today's Docent Program started to take shape in 1960; however, the official rules and regulations were completed on May 1, 1968, thus signaling the program's fast approaching 50th anniversary this coming spring. In the decades since, our docents have toured hundreds of thousands of visitors of all ages and stages of life through the galleries in support of the museum's mission: enhancing people's lives by cultivating relationships and building community through the direct experience of art and creativity. A welcoming docent voice is often the first introduction to MAG for many visitors, and, simply put, we could not be any prouder for it.

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For more information

for membership, book programming, events, loans, and all things MAG, visit www.mag.rochester.edu, or follow us on social media!

Accessibility

We strive to make the Memorial Art Gallery an inclusive space for all visitors. Accessibility is supported with a variety of options, including the tactile possibilities by Braille and Audio-touring, and the hearing loop at the main entrance. For more information, or to request a guide, visit www.mag.rochester.edu/accessibility or call (585) 276-6869. People who are deaf or hard of hearing may call our relay service. We also offer a special of phone call for visually impaired.

Thank you to our Sponsors

Underwritten by Helen H. Siskin, with additional support from the Elizabeth F. Chubb Foundation. The Memorial Art Gallery is supported primarily by contributions from the University of Rochester and public funds from Monroe County. Memorial Art Gallery is also supported in part by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature. **Wed-Fri, Thursday admission after 5 pm is made possible in part by Monroe County**



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READ

Charlotte Whitney
Allen Library
Wednesday-Friday
1:00-4:00 PM

PAY

General: \$7⁵⁰
Senior Citizens: \$12
Children 6-18: \$6
College students: \$6
FREE: U+R + members

HOURS

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TOUR

Thursday: 6:00 PM
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BECOMES TOURS 11:00 AM-9:00 PM

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