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**CONTACT**

Kerri VanderHoff  
Grand Rapids Art Museum  
616.831.2914  
[kvanderhoff@artmuseumgr.org](mailto:kvanderhoff@artmuseumgr.org)

**GRAND RAPIDS ART MUSEUM AND OX-BOW JOINT CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION  
EXHIBITION OPENS FRIDAY, JUNE 4 AT GRAM**

*A Friday Lecture Series is Planned with Former and Current Instructors and Ox-Bow Artists from Across the Nation*

**GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., May 28, 2010** – The Grand Rapids Art Museum (GRAM) presents the Ox-Bow Centennial Exhibition, on view June 4 through August 22, 2010, in a unique collaboration celebrating the joint centennials of Ox-Bow school of art and artists' residency, affiliated with the Art Institute of Chicago, and the Grand Rapids Art Museum. Both organizations were founded in 1910. GRAM and Ox-Bow are the two oldest visual art organizations in West Michigan. The centennial anniversaries provide an opportunity to look back at the accomplishments of the past century and look forward to the next 100 years.

As part of this joint celebration, Ox-Bow Program Director E.W. Ross has brought together works of art from former and current Ox-Bow faculty and artists, displaying a wide range of media and styles. The art Museum's Porter Gallery features eight larger pieces that span the 100 year history of Ox-Bow, including a painting by Ox-Bow founder Frederick Fursman and a new piece by Ox-Bow Academic Director Michael Andrews. Three-dimensional objects in the Design and Craft Gallery represent a small sample of work generated in the metals, glass, ceramics and paper studies. On the second floor are two-dimensional pieces, submitted by faculty and artists who have been an important part of Ox-Bow over the last twenty years.

A Friday Lecture Series at the Art Museum will feature Ox-Bow artists from across the country to discuss issues of contemporary art. The series is made possible by Haworth, Inc.

A special Ox-Bow evening will celebrate the exhibition at GRAM on Friday, July 9, from 5:00-9:00 pm. Reception made possible by Sam and Janene Cummings, and Todd and Liz Warnock.

Featured speaker will be Caitlin Strokosch, Executive Director, Alliance of Artists Communities. This special lecture will explore the importance of artists' communities. Ms. Strokosch will speak at 6:30pm. All other lectures are scheduled at 1:30pm.

**GRAM/OX-BOW FRIDAY LECTURE SERIES**

**The Lecture Series 2010 Art Now – The Oxbow Series**

Held in the Grand Rapids Art Museum's Cook Auditorium.

**July 9 – August 20, 2010**

July 9 at 6:30pm

**OX-BOW AND THE IMPORTANCE OF ARTISTS' COMMUNITIES**

Caitlin Strokosch

For a century, artists' communities have provided time and space to our most creative artists -- from Marcel Duchamp to Ed Paschke, Aaron Copland to Quentin Tarantino. They have been a steadfast force in nurturing the development of new creative work and the individuals who challenge and inspire us. Ox-Bow has been at the forefront of this movement since its founding in

1910, blending tradition and innovation, evolving to meet the needs of today's artists and providing an environment where new ideas are born and exchanged, and where creative sparks fly.

Caitlin Strokosch is Executive Director of the Alliance of Artists Communities, the national association of artists' residency programs. Prior to joining the Alliance, Caitlin managed several nonprofit professional music ensembles in Chicago, and she worked for a PR firm specializing in nonprofit arts organizations, including the National Youth Orchestra Festival and the Stradivarius Society. She has received training in nonprofit management from the Chicago Nonprofit Financial Center and as a selected participant in the Arts & Business Council's National Arts Marketing Project. Caitlin has been a guest speaker and lecturer at conferences and colleges around the country, including Columbia College Chicago, Roosevelt University, Brown University, Roger Williams University, and the Rhode Island School of Design on a range of topics – from grant writing to contemporary music to intersections of art and architecture. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in music performance from Columbia College Chicago and a Master's in musicology from Roosevelt University, where her research focused on music as a tool for building communities of resistance and social dissent; and she was a PhD candidate in Ethnomusicology at Brown University.

July 16 at 1:30pm

PUBLIC ART IN THE AGE OF OBAMA

Jack Becker

What does sustainable mean in the context of public art today? Is it artists saving the environment; maintaining collections of art exposed to the elements; retaining careers in the field; eco-activism; community building; preserving the "art" in public art; restoring civic life; or defining new forms of creative expression? It's all of the above.

Jack Becker is founder and executive director of Forecast Public Art, an organization established in 1978 whose mission is to strengthen and advance the field of public art. As a public artist and program administrator, Jack specializes in projects that connect the ideas and energies of artists with the needs and opportunities of communities. He has organized more than 70 exhibitions, 50 publications, and numerous special events. Becker also serves as the executive editor of Public Art Review, the world's leading journal devoted exclusively to the field of contemporary public art.

July 23 at 1:30pm

OX-BOW: NOW AND THEN

John Corbett

With attention to stylistic continuities and contrasts, notions of community and isolation, and the persistence of an urban/rural dialectic, John Corbett will discuss the work of eight figures associated with Ox-Bow, four of them emerging during the modernist ethos of mid-20th century American art – Isobel Steele MacKinnon, Max Kahn, Eleanor Coen, Frank Vavruska – and four of very recent origin – Joel Dean, Isak Applin, Rachel Niffenegger, Carmen Price.  
John Corbett

John Corbett is Adjunct Associate Professor, Sound; Liberal Arts; Art History, Theory, and Criticism (1988) at SAIC. BA, Brown University, 1986; PhD, 1994, Northwestern University. Previous position: Artistic Director, Berlin Jazz Festival. CDs: The Devil's in the Details; Slapping Pythagoras; I'm Sick About My Hat. Book: Extended Play: Sounding Off from John Cage to Dr. Funkenstein. Publications: Art in Chicago; Western Music and Its Others; TDR; P-Form; WhiteWalls; New Art Examiner; Down Beat; Discourse; Stanford Humanities Review, October, Subjects/Objects. Awards: Institute for Modern Communications Grant; Lisagor Award in Journalism; Art Institute of Chicago's Chairman's Award

July 30 at 1:30pm

## OUTSIDER ART: AN INTRODUCTION

Michael Bonesteel

The fascinating history of Outsider Art, from the early 20th century psychiatric collections and Jean Dubuffet's Art Brut artists to the present. Major names such as James Castle, Henry Darger, Martin Ramirez, Bill Traylor and Adolf Wolfli are discussed.

Michael Bonesteel is an art historian, art critic and adjunct assistant professor at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, with expertise in the fields of Outsider art and sequential art/comic books/graphic novels. He published the first definitive book in English on Henry Darger, titled *Henry Darger: Art and Selected Writings* (Rizzoli, 2000), and is the author of numerous book and magazine articles, and catalogue essays. He received a BA from the University of Wisconsin.

August 6 at 1:30pm

## AN ABBREVIATED LOOK AT COMIC CONVENTIONS IN ART FROM ILLUMINATED MANUSCRIPTS TO NOW

Mark Pascale

Selected from the collection in the Department of Prints and Drawings at The Art Institute of Chicago, this talk examines how artists have used visual conventions garnered from commercial printing, in concert with stories from the Bible and every day life, throughout the history of graphic art.

Mark Pascale. MFA, Ohio State University; BA, Southern Connecticut State College. Current: Curator of Prints and Drawings, Art Institute of Chicago. Teaches: School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Curated: *Force of a Dream: The Drawings of Joseph Yoakum*; *After the Crash: Picturing the U.S. 1930-1943*; *Contemporary American Realist Drawings*, all The Art Institute of Chicago. Visiting lecturer: Museum of Modern Art, New York; Museum of Fine Arts-Houston; University of Iowa; University of Wisconsin; Folk Art Museum, New York.

August 13 at 1:30pm

## THE OX-BOW CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION: PERSPECTIVES, INTERPRETATIONS, AND RIFFS

Lisa Wainwright

From 1910 through the present day, the artist-teachers of Ox-Bow have captured the experience this unique art center affords. In painting, sculpture, object-design, fiber, glass, and clay, those myriad themes most relevant to the century took form through a commitment to skilled craft. This lecture will highlight the salient themes and stylistic tendencies that have shaped the Ox-Bow oeuvre.

Lisa Wainwright. Dean of Graduate Studies; Professor, Art History, Theory, and Criticism (1989) SAIC. BA, cum laude, 1982, Vanderbilt University; MA, 1986, and PhD, 1993, University of Illinois. Exhibition catalogue: *Things of Nature/The Nature of Things* published by the University of Wisconsin Press. Publications: *Encyclopedia Britannica*; *Fiberarts*; *Le Petit Canard*; *Art Papers*; *Art International*; *New Art Examiner*; essays, "Not at Home: The Suppression of Domesticity in Modern Art and Architecture;" *A History of The Renaissance Society 1990-2000*, The Shuey Collection. Curator: "From Steel to Flesh;" "2001 Spaced Oddities;" "At Home in the Museum;" "Pink;" "1968."

August 20 at 1:30pm

## THE PERSISTENCE OF PLACE: MODERN ART IN THE MIDWEST

Jim Yood

The superb record of modern and contemporary Midwestern

artists is assessed in this lecture which examines an accomplished if sometimes overlooked or misinterpreted regional style in American art. Beginning with artists such as Grant Wood, Thomas Hart Benton, and Ivan Albright, the lecture also surveys artists such as Ed Paschke, Hollis Sigler, and Karl Wirsum.

Jim Yood. Adjunct Professor, Art History, Theory, and Criticism (1987). BA, 1974, University of Wisconsin; MA, 1976, and PhD candidate, University of Chicago. Regional correspondent: Artforum; Art and Auction, tema celeste; GLASS magazines. Books: Gladys Nilsson; Feasting: A Celebration of Food in Art; Spirited Visions: Portraits of Chicago Artists; William Morris: Man Adorned; William Morris: Animal/Artifact; Hollis Sigler's Breast Cancer Journal; Mary Koga: Photographs; Second Sight: Printmaking in Chicago 1935-95; The Prints of Jeanette Pasin Sloan.

#### **About Ox-Bow school of art and artists' residency**

Founded on the shores of Lake Michigan as an escape from the city, Ox-Bow's campus encompasses 115 acres of pristine natural forests, dunes, a lagoon and historic buildings. For the past century, it has served as a haven for the creative process through instruction, example and community. Founded by Chicago artists Frederick Fursman and Walter Marshall Clute, Ox-Bow's academic program has been overseen by the School of the Art Institute of Chicago since 1987. Alumni include Richard Artschwager, Jack Beal, Nick Cave, Janet Fish, Leon Golub, Jim Henson, Ellen Lanyon, Joan Mitchell, Claes Oldenburg and Nancy Spero.

#### **About the Grand Rapids Art Museum**

The Grand Rapids Art Museum (GRAM) celebrates 100 years of art, legacy and vision with its Centennial Year in 2010. The mission of the Grand Rapids Art Museum is to provide a gathering place where people of all ages and backgrounds can enrich their lives through interaction with works of art in a thought-provoking and creative way. Established in the heart of downtown Grand Rapids, the new art museum is internationally known for its distinguished design and LEED Gold certified status. Established in 1910 as the Grand Rapids Art Association, GRAM has grown to include more than 5,000 works of art, including American and European 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century painting and sculpture and over 3,000 works on paper. Embracing the city's legacy as a leading center of design and manufacturing, GRAM has a growing collection in the area of design and modern craft.



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