Summer Exhibition Opening Reception

The Hilliard Museum announces a new series of exhibitions for the Summer 2019 season.

Lafayette, LA - The Hilliard University Art Museum is pleased to announce the opening of its summer 2019 season with a series of exhibitions that explore illustration, installation, appropriation and sculpture.

The public is invited to celebrate and view the gallery installations on Friday, June 14, for a free opening reception from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. A private members-only preview will take place from 4:00 to 6:00 PM. Beer is generously provided by Urban South Brewery.

Gisela Colon: Pods
January 18, 2019 – August 24, 2019

Upon entering the gallery, one is surrounded by wall-hung biomorphic forms in multiple glowing hues that seem to transmute, interacting in new and unpredictable ways, with every variation in the room’s illumination and every shift of the viewer’s perspective. Forms within the forms also seem to move and alter. Shaped like amoebae and radiating like gems, the works evoke life both at its most primordial level and, simultaneously, at its most technically advanced and aesthetically refined. The way viewers interact with the Pods—by moving around and among them, by drawing closer and stepping back, by observing the differences wrought by variations...
in sunlight or levels of artificial lighting—is essential to the artist’s aims and the work’s meaning.

Colon is principally concerned, she has said, with “non-linearity, shape-shifting, fluidity, liquidity, temporality, motion”—everything that is contrary to “stasis.” And, indeed, in examining her work one encounters no acute angles, no flat contours, no rough surfaces. The constructivist aspects of Modernism—straight vectors, the grid, uniform modules—are here superseded. Sinuosity, brightness, protozoan shapes, mystery, and opulence prevail. Once engaged with the Pods, the eye and the mind never rest. Everything is flow and change.

Tripping Over Cypress: Recent Work by Cliff Tresner
March 8, 2019 – August 10, 2019

Tripping Over Cypress is an examination of how the artist Cliff Tresner places himself within the literal and cultural landscape of Louisiana. Originally a Hoosier, he is an adoptive Louisianan since 1997. At any given moment a change in weather or a passing word can create a push and pull between where he is grounded. His fluid conception of home is mirrored by the manner in which he incorporates painting and sculpture; they are inseparable but, flow from one into the other. His work is foundationally informed by his background in furniture design, a skill taught to him in Indiana by Tulane University alum Jack Gates, and his interests are as broad as natural beauty, human frailty, representation versus abstraction, improvisation, creation and destruction, and the chain of events that cause the water to rise in a bayou.

Kota Ezawa: Two Views
May 10, 2019 – August 24, 2019

Kota Ezawa is one of the world’s preeminent appropriation artists. His source materials, video footage in the case of Kota Ezawa: Two Views, are pulled from films that have achieved iconic cultural status, but he alters them to generate new meanings. Ezawa’s images are created using rotoscope animation, a process whereby every image from the original footage is traced and filled in with solid colors. The result is a depiction of the world that is familiar, but hard to understand. Faces like Pierce Brosnan’s in The Crime of Art are surprisingly recognizable, but simplified so that one might second guess it is him they are seeing. The same can be said of the montaged landscapes in City of Nature. The flatness of the images makes it difficult to perceive depth and detail, but the human mind accommodates any inconsistencies and interprets them appropriately the moment after they are seen.

June 8, 2018 – November 16, 2019

John F. Simon, Jr., a native of Louisiana, is a noted software art pioneer. Paths and Loops acknowledges this status, and explores the nature of his creative process with a breadth and depth that has not been matched before. Simon uses meditation in conjunction with drawing each day to mine his subconscious for portentous subject matter. The resulting series,
his *Divination Drawings*, represents a twenty-year undertaking that feeds his overall artistic practice. If an image regularly cycles through his daily drawings, he will elaborate on the idea by recreating it in a less improvisational medium than drawing. At this stage his work is apt to manifest in a variety of forms such as software, sculptural paintings created with CNC routers, and any other materials that appeal to him. Simon is a meticulous record keeper and uses his archives to track his life’s work, as well as better understand the very nature of creativity and artistic intention. He is captivated by how his understanding of works of art he already thought complete grow and change over time, revealing that perhaps a work of art is never complete, only enriched with further consideration.

*A Teaspoon and a Bit of String: The Illustrations of Denise Gallagher*
June 14, 2019 – August 31, 2019

Denise Gallagher is passionate about creating. An internationally published author and illustrator, Denise is deeply inspired by rare animals, ancient folklore and her Louisiana home. Always ready for an idea to strike, Denise carries a sketchbook wherever she goes to capture the world around her. Moments of pure joy, random memories, bits of melancholy and fleeting thoughts are all carefully recorded, and then woven into her beloved illustrations and developed into narrative.

Her drawing style is intricate, and provides a glimpse into a rich storybook world, where characters peek from the edge of a dark forest, often held together by stitches and bits of string. According to Denise, “My stories carry readers through lush and enchanted landscapes. There, recurring characters — including bears, wolves and young children — find themselves in curious situations. Along the way, seemingly random objects — a fig, a skeleton key or a teacup — become deeply meaningful or infused with magic. Those who experience my work often find themselves imagining what might happen next, then are pleasantly surprised at the gentle unfolding of a charming tale with just a hint of mystery.”

**Acknowledgements**

The museum wishes to express gratitude for the support and partnerships that have made this season of exhibitions possible: The Hilliard Society; the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and the UL Foundation; as well as our friends and members.

**Upon request, high-resolution images, and complementary program calendars are available. Interviews may also be arranged.**

**Museum Hours, Admission & General Information**
The Hilliard University Art Museum is located at 710 East Saint Mary Boulevard, on the campus of University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Museum Hours are: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM; Wednesday, 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM; Saturday, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM; closed Sunday and Monday. General Admission: $5 Adults, $4 Seniors (62+), $3 Students
(5-17). FREE for Members, UL Students/Staff/Faculty with identification, and visitors under 5. Guided tours of the galleries are available Friday & Saturday at 2 PM, complimentary with admission. For general information, please visit hillliardmuseum.org or call (337) 482-2278.

**About the Hilliard Museum**
The Hilliard University Art Museum operates on the campus of University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and was originally founded in 1964 as the Art Center for Southwest Louisiana. Featuring a state-of-the-art modern facility that was erected in 2004, the museum houses more than 2,200 objects in its permanent collection, and is the largest art exhibition space between New Orleans and Houston. The Hilliard Museum serves a wide range of educational and cultural needs by fostering cross-disciplinary intellectual discourse on campus, and throughout the region. At the core of the Hilliard's mission is to collect, preserve, interpret, and exhibit the art of our time, while celebrating the great diversity of Louisiana's heritage.

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