

Media Advisory

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Victoria H. Myhren Gallery 2009-2010 exhibition schedule

DENVER— The Victoria H. Myhren Gallery at the University of Denver (DU) is pleased to announce its upcoming 2009-2010 Exhibition schedule. Please note that for most of the calendar year, the Gallery will be split into two adjoining exhibition spaces, listed here as North Gallery and South Gallery. Shows will be staggered with separate opening receptions for each space.

NORTH GALLERY

The Family Stage: Photographs by Janet Delaney, Todd Hido, and Cecil McDonald Jr.

Sept. 24–Nov. 15, 2009

Opening reception Thursday, Sept. 24, 5–8pm

“The Family Stage” is an exhibition of photographs depicting family life from multiple perspectives. The show immerses the viewer in the complexities of family dynamics, the simplicities of humdrum objects, and the sometimes turbulent, often sublime rhythms of home.

Janet Delaney’s “Housebound” series grew from her need to create some stillness within the whirlwind of motherhood. The work captures what she terms “simple scenarios of home and family.” Delaney lives in Berkeley, CA, where she teaches photography at the University of California.

Todd Hido’s “Ohio” series of 20 Instamatic photographs presents a compelling narrative that hovers between fact and fiction. For Hido, the cheap Instamatic camera produces images that are “more fictional but more true” than imagery taken with conventional cameras. Hido was born in Ohio and is a celebrated contemporary landscape photographer living and working in Oakland, CA. He teaches part-time at CCA, San Francisco and is represented by the Stephen Wirtz Gallery, SF.

“Domestic Observations and Occurrences” by Cecil McDonald Jr. represents “an extended look at the moments and relationships that occur within the domestic space.” McDonald eschews the singular object or person for performative retellings of activities ranging from the mundane to the dramatic. McDonald is represented by the Catherine Edelman Gallery in Chicago.

A survey of family “snapshot” albums will show how the presentation and preservation of family photographs has evolved, from early 20th century bound volumes to today’s digital frame. “The Family Stage” is organized by Rupert Jenkins, Roddy MacInnes, and Charlie Roderick.

“Citizen: The Wolf and Nanny” (2009) Three channel HD video installation by Cliff Evans

Jan. 7–Feb. 21, 2010

Reception: Thursday, Jan. 7, 5–8pm

“Citizen” is a high-definition digital video installation by media artist Cliff Evans. Using recognizable images and personalities culled from the internet, Evans creates a spectacular, eye popping multi-panel collage.

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With humor, irony, and a critical eye, Evans deconstructs contemporary American culture and challenges the viewer to confront issues of power, celebrity, politics, war, and life-style in our society. Writing in artFORUM about Evans recent work, Barbara London, Associate Curator at the Museum of Modern Art, opined that “with a pinch of Hieronymus Bosch and another of William S. Burroughs, Evans’s three-channel video installation brilliantly portrays 21st century phobias in this up-to-the-minute version of purgatory.”

Cliff Evans graduated in 2004 from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. His work has been shown throughout the US in solo and group shows. He has been the recipient of numerous awards, including an Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts fellowship in 2006, and is represented by Curator’s Office, Washington DC, and Luxe Gallery, NYC.

Faculty Collects

April 1–April 25, 2010

Opening reception: Thursday, April 1, 5–8pm

Anyone who has seen the 2008 film “Herb & Dorothy” (dir. Megumi Sasaki) knows that, contrary to widely held belief, one does not have to be a multi-millionaire to amass an art collection. “Faculty Collects” updates an earlier Myhren Gallery presentation in the 1990s that surveyed the various collections belonging to faculty and staff at DUs School of Art & Art History (SAAH). Ranging from pre-Columbian to contemporary to esoteric ephemera, the collections reveal the many influences and practices that help shape a student’s learning experience at SAAH.

SOUTH GALLERY

John Edward Thompson: Colorado Modernist

Nov. 12, 2009–Jan. 17, 2010 (Closed Dec. 19–Jan. 3)

Opening reception: Thursday, Nov. 12, 5–8pm

John E. Thompson (b. 1882) was a pioneering artist who served on the DU faculty from 1929 to his death in 1945. This exhibition gathers together paintings, sketches, and drawings from DU’s permanent art collection as well as works from other regional collections, including numerous works on loan from the family of Teresa and Paul Harbaugh. It is the first in this season’s exhibitions curated by museum studies students enrolled in a curatorial practicum class at DU’s School of Art & Art History taught by gallery director Dan Jacobs. This in-depth look at Thompson’s working methods will also feature information on a continuing project to clean and restore an important mural by Thompson on the DU campus, rediscovered 76 years after it was painted over.

Contemporary Art from the Sarah and Jim Taylor Collection

Feb. 11–March 7, 2010

Opening reception: Thursday, April 1, 5–8pm

The second in our series of practicum-based exhibitions, Jim Taylor is a prominent young designer/developer and patron of the arts in Denver. Jim and Sarah Taylor have assembled a new collection of highly contemporary American art, with a strong focus on African-American, Asian-American and Latino artists.

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It includes important works by Kehinde Wiley, Shinique Smith, Robert Pruitt, Lee Valdez and many others. Students in the School of Art & Art History museum studies program at DU will have the unique opportunity to work with the Taylors in developing special programs around this vibrant collection.

American Master Watercolors from the Jan Perry Mayer Collection

April 1–April 25, 2010

Opening reception: Thursday, Feb. 11, 5–8pm

The third in this season's series of practicum-based exhibitions features watercolors from the Jan Perry Mayer Collection of Works on Paper. JFM Foundation co-founder Jan Mayer has extended JFM support for art education by making available an array of exceptional watercolor paintings by American and western masters, from John Singer Sargent, Albert Bierstadt and Charles Partridge Adams to Charles Demuth, Alexander Calder and Louise Bourgeois. The Frederick & Jan Mayer Center at the Denver Art Museum is dedicated to awareness and understanding of pre-Columbian and Spanish Colonial art. Mrs. Mayer is Chair Emeritus of the American Federation of Arts.

NORTH AND SOUTH Galleries will be combined for:

2010 BFA Exhibition

May 13–June 5, 2010

Opening reception: Thursday, May 13, 5–8pm

The School of Art & Art History presents its annual exhibition of work by graduating seniors from the School's programs in Studio Art and Electronic Media and Design (eMAD).

ADVANCE NOTICE:

ANDY WARHOL IN COLORADO

Winter 2010 (dates to be confirmed)

Early in 2009, the Victoria H. Myhren Gallery received 158 original Andy Warhol Polaroid and gelatin silver prints in part of an unprecedented gift program in which the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts made similar contributions to over 180 college and university art galleries nationwide. "Andy Warhol in Colorado" will feature photographs, films, and other artworks by Warhol drawn from these recent gifts and from other Colorado collections. Works by Denver-based artists with direct connections to Warhol's fabled Factory studio in New York City will also be included. DU will publish a fully-illustrated book in partnership with the Colorado Collection at CU Boulder and the Hatton Gallery at CU Fort Collins, which also received gifts from the Foundation.

Generous support for the activities of the Victoria H. Myhren Gallery is provided by Vicki and Trygve Myhren, Vicki and Kent Logan, and the Myhren Endowment at the University of Denver.