EXHIBITIONS & PROGRAMS

I hope you had the opportunity to see Mr. President this year. A decidedly offbeat look at the distinguished holders of the highest office in the land, the exhibition presented over fifty-eight portraits by thirty-two contemporary artists—from deeply reverential to bitingly satirical. Popular with students and community members alike, the exhibition drew broad media attention from extensive local commentary to a full-page article in ARTnews and coverage in The Art Newspaper, London.

The museum fulfills its responsibility as part of a great research university by organizing exhibitions like Mr. President, which present original research in a unique curatorial perspective. We do it by documenting exhibitions with outstanding publications that feature original essays and short fiction, and by commissioning and presenting new works of art. In this way, we are able to expand the body of knowledge in our field of visual arts, provide opportunities for artists to realize experimental work, and present never before seen works of art to the public. I am very proud that drawings by James Siena created for our fall exhibition will be included in his next show at PaceWildenstein Gallery in New York, and that Lu Shengzhi’s dramatic cut-paper sculpture Empty Book (2005) was re-created for an exhibition this winter at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. While there is always risk in commissioning and presenting new work, we value the intense engagement that comes with these partnerships and the vitality they bring to our programming.

Please visit often. In the meantime, I hope you enjoy this report of 2007 programs and a brief look ahead to 2008. Everyone at the museum joins me in thanking you for your support and sending our best wishes for the holiday season.

Janet Fisher
Director

University Art Collections
The University Art Museum is proud to announce that it has been selected to receive a gift of photographs from the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts in honor of the foundation’s 20th anniversary. Each of 183 participating college and university museums will receive approximately 150 original Polaroids and silver gelatin prints by Warhol. The gift comes to the museum through the Andy Warhol Photographic Legacy Program with the goal of providing greater access to Warhol’s artwork and enabling a wide range of people to view and study this important yet relatively unknown body of work. The museum plans a West Gallery exhibition that will feature the photographs along with other works by Warhol in the collection.

In re-focusing its mission, the Schenectady Museum has de-accessioned works from their fine arts collection, transferring many of them to area museums. The University Art Museum is grateful for the donation of seventeen paintings, drawings, and sculptures, originally purchased through the Mohawk-Hudson Regional exhibition. The gift consists largely of works by alumni and faculty emeriti. Among the artists included are Dawn Clements (’87, ’89), Ed Cowley, Maria A. Hall (’74, ’79), Larry Kagan (’70), Harold Lohner (’80, ’82, ’84), and William H. Wilson.

Over the past year, the University at Albany Collections received gifts of forty-nine photographs, paintings, and drawings, including works by Robert Rauschenberg, Thom O’Connor, Lindsey Watson, and Edward McCraty. A drawing by Richard Garrison was purchased from the exhibition 2007 Artists of the Mohawk-Hudson Region, in addition to two prints by Harold Lohner, purchased with the support of the UAlbany Alumni Association.

The University at Albany Fine Arts Collections consist of over 3,000 works of art with a primary focus on works on paper. Selections from the collection can be viewed on campus in the public areas of administrative and academic buildings.

2007 ACT Programs
The Marjorie L. and Ronald E. Brandon Art & Culture Talks presented Peter Saul, exhibiting artist in Mr. President; Michael Kammen, Pulitzer Prize winning historian and author of Visual Shock: A History of Art Controversies in American Culture (2006); Sina Najafi, editor-in-chief of Cabinet Magazine and author of Presidential Doodles (2006); Lynne Tillman, UAlbany Professor/Writer-in-Residence, art critic, and author of the novel American Genius, A Comedy (2006); guest curator Geoffrey Young (left) and exhibiting artist James Siena (right); exhibiting artist Judith Linhares; and a puppet performance and workshops by critically acclaimed Chinese Theatre Works.

In addition to the generous support of Marjorie L. Brandon, programs were co-sponsored by the New York State Writers Institute; University Auxiliary Services; and the 2007 China Semester.
2007 Exhibitions

Mr. President
January 18 – April 1
JoAnne Carson and Corinna Ripps Schaming, co-curators


Lyn Foulkes, Washingtonland (detail), 2006, oil and acrylic on wood panel, 40 x 40 inches. Courtesy of Kent Gallery, New York

Master of Fine Arts Thesis Exhibition
May 4 – May 20
Master of Fine Arts degree candidates Justin Baker, Patrick Cuffe, Ben Godward, Jason Martinez, Emily Rauch, and James A. Van Dyne, as well as Master of Arts candidate Lisa Porto presented work that formed the core of their visual theses.

Jason Martinez, Ancestor (detail), 2007, mixed media, 30 x 30 inches

Judith Linhares: New Works
July 12 – September 30
Geoffrey Young, guest curator

Judith Linhares’s luminous oil paintings and works on paper have inspired a generation of younger figurative painters. The wit and intelligence of her narrative style and chromatic immediacy entertain and dazzle with poetic risk.


July 12 – September 30
Geoffrey Young, guest curator

James Siena’s never-before shown “Pockets of Wheat” drawings (1996) were presented with eight new large-scale drawings. Inspired by a range of sources—patterns, algorithms, puzzle-like geometries—this leading proponent of abstraction creates works that confound and celebrate the logic of conventional picture-making.

Installation view of Big Fast Ink: James Siena Drawings, 1996–2007

Revelation: Lane Twitchell, Drawing & Painting
November 2 – January 6
Thomas Piché, Jr., curator
Organized by the Schweinfurth Memorial Art Center, Auburn, New York

Featuring fifteen large-scale paintings made by applying paint to cut paperwork, in which folk handicraft, technological history, and Pop culture iconography are woven into a kaleidoscopic view of the contemporary American landscape.

Lane Twitchell, Bloody Red Sun of Fantastic L.A. (detail), 2003-04, mixed media, 60 x 60 inches. Collection of Greg Feldman

Chinese Shadow Figures from the Collection of Dr. Fan Pen Chen
November 2 – January 6

This dynamic installation brings to life a one-thousand-year-old popular folk tradition that continues to engage audiences of all ages. Featuring shadow figures, scripts, and documentary video from the collection of Dr. Fan Pen Chen (UAlbany East Asian Studies Department) and held in conjunction with UAlbany’s 2007 China Semester.

Weighing of the Sins from The Eighteen Levels of Hell, Qing dynasty, cattle hide, dye, 10 x 11 inches. Collection of Dr. Fan Pen Chen

Chen Qiulin: Recent Work
November 2 – January 6

Featuring richly choreographed videos and photographs that explore the effects of rapid urbanization on contemporary Chinese culture. Chen Qiulin’s narrative imagery often includes theatrically dressed characters whose mysterious actions play out against the panoramic backdrop of China’s changing landscape. Held in conjunction with UAlbany’s 2007 China Semester.

Chen Qiulin, Garden No. 1, 2007, photograph, 47½ x 59¼ inches. Courtesy of the artist and Max Protetch Gallery, New York

Student Outreach

• The Museum Student Advisory Group organized “Party with Mr. President” a late-night event on March 1, 2007, that was attended by over 150 students.

• Nineteen undergraduate students from the university’s work-study program worked at the museum in 2007 by greeting visitors at the reception desk, assisting with public programs, helping to pack and unpack works for exhibition, preparing the exhibit space, and installing artworks.

• The Milton & Sally Avery Arts Foundation provided funding for a student intern during the summer of 2007. Joelle Nadeau (M.F.A. ’09) assisted with museum administrative activities associated with the organization and planning of upcoming exhibitions.
SUPPORTERS

The following donors to The University at Albany Foundation have designated all or a portion of their gift to the University Art Museum from July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007.

**Abram Brubacher Society ($500,000-$999,999)**
- J Michael Boetz
- Audrey I. K. Graves
- Ira J. Coolidge

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- ($250-$499)
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- J. Ernest Mincy, Jr.
- Mary Jo Mincy
- F. Michael Tucker
- Lynette Tucker
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- Sara Killeen Wlost ’69

**Albany Club**
- ($100-$249)
- Judith A. Barnes
- Sherry Busko
- Arlene Riker Bochever ’48
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- Shirley Brand
- Carolyn K. Callum ’78
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- Brian G. Easton
- *Peter T. Formica ’84
- Agostino Futia ’01
- Gary Gold ’70
- Herbert B. Gordon ’61
- Shirley G. Gordon ’74
- Edward M. Jennings
- Sally J. Jennings
- Vin Laprade
- Thomas Littlefield
- Clare S. Demeyer Marsch ’81
- Ann Older
- Thomas Older
- Nancy A. Pierson ’69
- *Theodore J. Schaffer ’82

Marcia Schafman
Milliken L. Seeling
Myron Seeling
Elizabeth A. Sonneck
Richard F. Sonneck
Stephanie B. Swine
William H. Swine

**Under $100**
- Frederick C. Baron ’49
- Dawn M. Clements ’87
- Harriet DeGraaff
- John T. DeGraaff, Jr.
- Jay M. Eisenberg
- Camille Grammabe
- Lawrence Goldner
- Sharon L. Henning Hess ’58
- Patricia M. Hodgkinson ’94
- Denise K. Hoefker ’04
- Sherer Jacobson
- Mary E. Beecher Koniarski ’77
- Donald G. Loewman ’60
- Paul J. Rosamala ’77
- Anne Rosenfeld
- Harry Rosenfeld
- Gail K. Saffan ’68
- Philip A. Spatzani ’71
- *Individuals whose employers generously matched their gifts

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- Harry Madej
- Schenectady Museum
- Peter Norton Family
- Wanda and Henry Ries
- William Roth
- Linda Watston ’76 ’84
- Anonymous Donor

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**EXHIBITION CATALOGS**

**Mr. President**
- Fully illustrated 64-page catalog includes essays by fiction writer/art critic Lynne Tillman, exhibition co-curator JoAnne Carson, and short entries by each of the artists.

- **$15.00 ea.** includes shipping and handling

**Julie Heffernan: Everything That Rises**
- Fully illustrated 68-page catalog features essays by novelist A.S. Byatt and artist/writer David Humphrey and introduction by the exhibition curator Janet Riker.

- **$25.00 ea.** includes shipping and handling

**State Street Stories: 350 Years of Albany’s Heritage** (supplement, 2007)
- Fully illustrated 48-page catalog supplement by curator and Art Museum Director emerita Marijo Dougherty, including an essay by Dr. John S. Pipkin, UAlbany Department of Geography and Planning.

- **$15.00 ea.** includes shipping and handling

Please make check payable to the **University at Albany Foundation**

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**2008 Preview**

**Jennifer and Kevin McCoy**

February 5–April 6, 2008

In a series of multi-media projects, this dynamic Brooklyn-based husband and wife team create new narratives about life and love by merging digital production with the worlds of film and television. The exhibition will include sculpture and installation projects, as well as new paintings created on site from collaged classic cartoon imagery.

**David Opydke**

February 5–April 6, 2008

Featuring recent sculptures, drawings, and a new site-specific installation. Opydke’s ingenious craftsmanship turns childhood pursuits like building model railways and flying paper planes into targeted critiques on military proliferation, compulsive consumerism, and clandestine global networks.

**Steve DiBenedetto/Keith Edmier**

Summer, 2008

Painter Steve DiBenedetto and sculptor Keith Edmier, two of contemporary art’s most arresting practitioners, will join forces this summer on a museum-wide collaborative project loosely based on the movie *Altered States* (1980).

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**MUSEUM STAFF**

- Darcie Abbatelli, Museum Assistant
- Sairam Chinnam, Graduate Assistant
- Zheng Hu, Exhibition Designer
- Naomi Lewis, Exhibition & Outreach Coordinator
- Joanne Lue, Administrative Assistant
- Wren Panzella, Art Collections Manager
- Ryan Parr, Collections Assistant
- Janet Riker, Director
- Corinna Ripps Schaming, Associate Director/curator
- Patricia VanAlstyne, Administrative Assistant
- Jeffrey Wright-Sedam, Preparator