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Racine Art Museum Explores Shifts in Artists' Creative Practices

Racine, WI February 13, 2024

An upcoming exhibition at the Racine Art Museum (RAM) showcases artists via multiple works made of different materials. Opening on February 28, 2024, *In Between Contemporary Artists Working in Two and Three Dimensions Featuring Dennis Lee Mitchell* demonstrates how artists can adjust their creative focus over time, creating work that spans media and dimensions. The exhibition will be open at RAM in downtown Racine, Wisconsin, through August 31, 2024.

Possibly for ease of categorizing, artists tend to be classified by the materials they primarily use or the types of work most often created—a ceramic sculptor, a jeweler, a painter. Yet, it is not uncommon for artists to shift between media within their creative process—some may favor certain materials but flex between two- and three-dimensional work, while others may use drawings to create stand-alone imagery or blueprints for objects. There are no strict rules that govern the extent or articulation of these changes in working methods.

RAM Curator of Exhibitions Lena Vigna believes that *In Between* helps reflect a fluency between two- and three-dimensional work while also supporting RAM's collecting endeavors.

"This exhibition underscores the depth of RAM's collection on more than one level—showcasing the variety of work and artists and the fact that artists are represented through multiple examples of their work across time and various types of media.



PRESS RELEASE

It also reinforces two major collecting emphases of RAM—contemporary craft and works on paper.”

In Between also specifically highlights the work of Dennis Lee Mitchell, a Virginia-based artist who once favored clay, but for some time has been creating large-scale “smoke drawings” with an acetylene torch. According to Vigna, similarities can be drawn between these two vastly different media—both his work with clay and his shift to a “compelling, atypical medium...still keeps him connected to nature.”

Further examples of artists and their multi-faceted artistic practices on display in this exhibition include Barbara Brandel, who constructed hand-woven tapestry wall works and wearable garments; Dale Chihuly, who created large-scale drawings and prints with shapes and colors that echo and extend the context of his sculptural glass work; Carol Eckert, who creates drawings that plot out the thread colors used to craft her fiber works; and Russell T. Gordon, who is known for paintings and prints, but also constructed ceramic wall pieces.

Exhibitions at Racine Art Museum are made possible by: Platinum Sponsors—The Estate of Karen Johnson Boyd, David Charak, Judith and David Flegel Fund, Ron and Judith Isaacs, Nicholas and Nancy Kurten, Racine Community Foundation, Windgate Foundation; Diamond Sponsors—City of Racine’s Grow Racine Grant, Osborne and Scekcic Family Foundation, Ruffo Family Foundation, Ruth Arts Foundation; Gold Sponsors—Anonymous, Tom and Irene Creecy, Richard and Patricia Ehlert, Reliance Controls Community Fund, Trio Foundation of St. Louis, W.T. Walker Group, Inc., Wisconsin Arts Board; Silver Sponsors—Anonymous, Baird, Beta Diagnostic Labs, A.C. Buhler Family, Lucy G. Feller, Ben and Dawn Flegel, Jim Harris, Horizon Retail Construction, Inc., Lise Iwon, Johnson Financial Group, Dorothy MacVicar, Jan Serr and John Shannon, Visit Racine County; Bronze Sponsors—Ellen and Joseph Albrecht, Susan Boland, Virginia Buhler, Dave’s Wine Garage, Educators Credit Union, Express Employment Professionals, Bill and Debbie Keland, Susan Manalli, Jean and Alex Mandli, Jr., Norbell Foundation, The Prairie School, Cathy Stanghellini, Twin Disc; Media Sponsor—88Nine Radio Milwaukee

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The two campuses of the Racine Art Museum—RAM in downtown Racine at 441 Main Street and the Charles A. Wustum Museum of Fine Arts (Wustum) at 2519 Northwestern Avenue—are located in Racine, Wisconsin, a historic community on the shores of Lake Michigan. RAM is home to the largest contemporary craft collection in North America and has a reputation for its award-winning architecture and nationally recognized exhibition program.



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Wustum is home to the organization's diverse, award-winning art education programs and has presented significant art exhibitions since 1941.

Both campuses of the Racine Art Museum are currently open Wednesday through Saturday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Admission rates are \$10 for adults; \$8 for students, seniors (62+), and veterans; and free for RAM members, children under 12, active military personnel, and NARM, ROAM, and AAM members.