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PRESS CONTACT

Jessica Zalewski
Marketing Specialist
262.638.8300
jzalewski@ramart.org

The Racine Art Museum Prepares for Groundbreaking Exhibition

Racine, WI September 19, 2011

This fall, the Racine Art Museum (RAM) is featuring an unprecedented exhibition celebrating the museum's recent commitment to establishing a permanent collection of polymer jewelry, beads and sculptural objects. Organized by RAM, *Terra Nova: Polymer Art at the Crossroads* will open October 21, 2011. On display at RAM through February 5, 2012, the show emphasizes the development of polymer as an expressive medium for artwork in recent decades. The museum is publishing a book of the same title to support the content of the exhibition, as well as function as a singular resource for the historical and philosophical dimensions of the polymer medium.

Weekend Filled with Polymer

October 20-23

The Racine Art Museum is hosting a celebratory weekend to mark this important exhibition and welcome the new gifts into RAM's recent collection focus.

The list of events include:

Workshop with the Masters - Polymer Artist Tory Hughes

Holy Polymer, Batman!

2 Days, October 20-21

This two-day workshop is a comprehensive introduction to polymer for working artists in all media, who want to expand their options.

Students will learn more about the basic qualities of the polymer material and how it can enhance their creative development. Polymer can be 2-D or 3-D, sculptural or surface, translucent or opaque, thin as paper or solidly volumetric (with no cracking or explosions in the kiln), colorful, pearlescent, textured, painted, matte, or glossy. It

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takes transfers, is lightweight, durable, and allows artists to explore every creative desire. More information is available at <http://www.ramart.org/polymer-class>.

Exhibition Preview Reception

RAM Members Only

Friday, October 21 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Booksigning 6:45 pm

RAM Members are invited to tour the exhibition and meet several of the artists featured in the show.

Polymer Symposium

The centerpiece of the weekend will be a three-day symposium entitled Polymer: The Journey to New Terrain held at The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread, a 14,000 square-foot home designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in the 1930s. A limited number of reservations for Saturday's sessions are being accepted at www.ramart.org/polymer-symposium.

Terra Nova Public Reception

Sunday, October 23

Gallery Tour 1:30 - 3:30 pm

Museum Store Booksigning 3:00 pm

Visitors to the museum will enjoy a behind-the-scenes tour of Terra Nova and interviews with exhibiting artists Jeffrey Lloyd Dever and Tory Hughes.

Terra Nova: Polymer Art at the Crossroads Book

Available October 2011

Accompanying the exhibition Terra Nova, a 140-page hardcover book combines illuminating text and ideas about polymer—both past and present—with images and details on key artists. Beautifully illustrated with more than 130 photographs, this book offers different frameworks for understanding the innovations of polymer in artistic expression. Pre-orders are currently being accepted by calling Racine Art Museum Store at 262.638.8200. Wholesale quantity pricing available to qualified merchants.

This exhibition at the Racine Art Museum is made possible by: Presenting Sponsors - Karen Johnson Boyd and William B. Boyd, RAM Society Members, Jay Price Ruffo, S.C. Johnson & Son, Inc., and Windgate Charitable Foundation; Gold Sponsors - Helen Bader Foundation, Inc., Penina Meisels, National Endowment for the Arts, Racine Community Foundation, Inc., Racine United Arts Fund, Elise Winters and Woody Rudin, and Wisconsin Arts Board; Silver Sponsors - Rachel Carren and Mark Young, Cotsen Foundation for Academic Research, Hollie Mion, Osborne and Scekic

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Together, 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 at 2519 Northwestern Avenue, seek to elevate the stature of contemporary crafts to that of fine art by exhibiting significant works in craft media with painting, sculpture and photography, while providing outstanding educational art programming.

Docent led contemporary craft and architectural tours of the museums are available. Both campuses of the Racine Art Museum, are open Tuesday – Saturday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm, and are closed Mondays, Federal holidays and Easter. RAM is open Sunday Noon – 5:00 pm, while Wustum is closed Sundays. An admission fee of \$5 for adults, with reduced fees for students and seniors, applies at RAM. Admission to Wustum is free. Members are always admitted without charge to either campus.