

ART

RAM updates current exhibits with new work

RACINE — Two six-month long exhibitions at the Racine Art Museum, 441 Main St., have recently been transformed, with new works exchanged for those that had been on display for about three months.

“Represent: Exploring Portraits from RAM’s Collection” and “From Nature: Contemporary Artists and Organic Materials” both included artworks made of light sensitive materials that needed to be switched out after a certain amount of time.

In “Represent,” RAM has the added opportunity to feature the work of an emerging artist from the region. For the second part of the show, six articulated paper dolls and nine framed paper dolls from Milwaukee artist Kierston Ghaznavi are juxtaposed with contemporary photography, jewelry and sculpture. Ghaznavi’s pointed, yet playful, look at

personal and social identity is contrasted with more traditional photographic portraits of celebrities and people on the street, jewelry depicting distinct unnamed people, and poetic glass and ceramic figures.

From self-portraits to works that encapsulate the essence of a subject through metaphor or emotion, the pieces in “Represent” — open through Sept. 1 — encourage contemplation about how human beings understand one another as well as the world around them.

Open through Oct. 6, “From Nature” features primarily objects — sculptural, functional and wearable — that incorporate items from the natural world as a means to explore materials and a way to investigate a variety of social, personal, environmental and cultural issues.



“Mother and Child Reunion” by Kierston Ghaznavi. Made with pen, marker, cardstock, glue, metal brads and twine.

Because artworks made from natural materials — like plant and tree matter, feathers, and sturgeon skin — need a break from gallery lighting after approximately three months, more than half of the works in “From Nature” have been replaced. For example, Dorothy Gill Barnes’ compelling altered willow tree sculpture has been switched out for Clifton Monteith’s willow stick armchair and a table made of maple and Australian eucalyptus burls.

The Racine Art Museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$7 for adults, and \$5 youth ages 12-18, full-time students and seniors age 62 and older. There is no charge for ages 11 and younger.

Exhibit investigates sculpture as art

RACINE — “In Space: Sculptural Awareness,” a summer invitational exhibit featuring three-dimensional work of local artists, will be shown June 20-Aug. 15 at the Gallery on 16th in the Racine Business Center, 1405 16th St.

An opening reception will be held from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. today. Music will be provided by guitarist Luke Baird.

Featured artists include Patti Fallon (ceramics), Bradford Lee (alabaster and chlorite), Bruce Niemi (stainless steel and bronze) and John Zehren (cardboard). The exhibit is curated by gallery director Samira Gdisis.

This exhibit investigates sculpture as art, having mass, filling space creating shadow and pushing the viewer to engage with the work. It invites the viewer to experience the space within the gallery moving amongst the sculpture.

Regular Gallery on 16th hours are from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursdays. There is no admission fee.

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