

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY™

Thursday, August 21, 2003

Gallery to feature international, local exhibits

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

Whether your tastes in art lean toward sculpture and painting or photography and film, Oakland University's **Meadow Brook Art Gallery** (MBAG) has assembled a series of exhibits for its 2003-04 schedule that are sure to inspire attendees.

MBAG staff are raising the profile of the gallery, which is open free of charge to students, faculty, staff and the community, by attracting nationally known artists and international exhibits and by drawing from OU's own collection of rare and significant pieces.

"We're very much aware that Oakland is now offering a studio art major, which has influenced the kinds of exhibits we've scheduled," said MABG Director Dick Goody. "For example, Jane Lackey (artist-in-residence at the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills) is an artist with a national reputation. Her work raises the bar and is very exciting."

The MBAG season begins Saturday, Sept. 6, with an exhibit of sculptures by Ann Arbor-based artist Sharon Que, whose sculpture, titled "Resound," is installed in OU's Varner Memorial Garden.

"Oakland always has had a commitment to public sculpture," Goody said. "Que is an important artist who has her work on display in the Detroit Institute of Arts."

Another highlight this year is a photographic exhibit of images depicting late 19th century London. The exhibit will coincide with the Dickens Society Symposium, an international event hosted this October by OU's **Department of English**.

"This exhibit highlights the connection between the disciplines, particularly between Oakland's English and Art History departments," Goody said. "We also believe photography will be a significant part of the studio art major. We have a new faculty member named Claude Baillargeon who will be curating the exhibit. He is a scholar of photography and will also be contributing a substantial essay to our exhibit catalog. We'll also be showing movies in the gallery for the first time, featuring 1930's films of works by Dickens. This also highlights the connection between art and cinema."

MBAG also will draw from more than 1,000 art objects in the university's collection for an exhibit next spring.

"The university is committed to art in many different ways," Goody said. "OU has a truly significant collection, which was mainly acquired through donations. We have some incredibly valuable objects as well, particularly in 20th century painting. We also have an important collection of African art that will be on display. Bits and pieces of Oakland's collection have been shown previously, but not at this scale."

"We also want to encourage more students to come to the gallery this year. We want them to know that they can come and bring their friends to see some outstanding works of art. It's not a church or library where you have to whisper. Art isn't just about seriousness but also enjoyment. Our gallery is a place where you can let your hair down a little bit."

Meadow Brook Art Gallery has delivered diverse, museum-quality art to the metro Detroit area for more than 40 years. The gallery is located in 208 Wilson Hall, directly across from the main entrance of Meadow Brook Theatre. The gallery is open every day except Monday.

For more information on exhibition dates and times, opening receptions and events, internships and volunteer opportunities, visit the **Meadow Brook Art Gallery** Web site or contact Dick Goody at (248) 370-3005 or goody@oakland.edu. For more information on the new **Bachelor of Arts degree in studio art**, visit the **Department of Art and Art History** Web site or contact Professor of Art History and Department Chair Susan Wood at (248) 370-3375 or wood@oakland.edu.

MEADOW BROOK ART GALLERY 2003-04 SCHEDULE

retrofit: A Decade of Sculpture by Sharon Que

Sept. 5 – Oct. 5. Celebrated Michigan sculptor Sharon Que explores aspects of concrete poetry, painting, engraving, ritual and meditation. The opening reception is Saturday, Sept. 6, from 6 to 8 p.m. An artist's talk is Saturday, Sept. 21, at 3 p.m.

Dickensian London and the Photographic Imagination, 1851-1881

Oct. 10 – Nov. 16. This exhibit will feature original paper photographs of 19th century London, which examine architecture, urbanization and urban poverty. The photographs come from the superlative George Eastman House and the William Becker Collections. The opening reception is Friday, Oct. 10, from 5 to 8 p.m.

Constructions by Jane Lackey

Nov. 21 – Dec. 21. International artist and Cranbrook Academy of Art artist-in-residence Jane Lackey explores DNA, calibration and lexical issues. The opening reception is Saturday, Nov. 22, from 6 to 8 p.m.

A Retrospective by Rob Kangas

Jan. 9 – Feb. 22. Ten years of unique panoramic photographs, portraits and cultural commentary by Michigan photographer Rob Kangas will be exhibited. The opening reception is Friday, Jan. 9, from 5 to 8 p.m.

The Collection, featuring the Oakland University Permanent Art Collection

March 5 – April 11. Oakland University has an extraordinary art collection including paintings, drawings, prints and sculpture. This exhibition provides a rare opportunity to explore this remarkable resource. The opening reception is Friday, March 5, from 5 to 7 p.m.

STEP2, the 10th annual student/faculty art exhibition

April 16 – May 16. Oakland University's talents will be on display at the 10th annual student/faculty art exhibition. Last year more than 70 pieces were exhibited. The opening reception is Friday, April 16, from 5 to 7 p.m.

SUMMARY

Whether your tastes in art lean toward sculpture and painting or photography and film, OU's Meadow Brook Art Gallery's 2003-04 schedule of exhibits is sure to inspire. The gallery is attracting nationally known artists and international exhibits and will draw from OU's own collection of rare and significant pieces. The MBAG season begins Saturday, Sept. 6, with an exhibit of sculptures by Ann Arbor-based artist Sharon Que, whose sculpture, titled "Resound," is installed in OU's Varner Memorial Garden.

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