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Local photographer subject of MBAG exhibit

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

Ten years of unique panoramic photographs, portraits and cultural commentary by Michigan photographer Rob Kangas will be featured in an upcoming exhibition at Oakland University's **Meadow Brook Art Gallery**. The exhibit, titled "The Flowers of Insomnia," will be on display Friday, Jan. 9, to Sunday, Feb. 22. An opening reception is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 17, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Among the photographs are a series of portraits where the subjects are obscured by darkness or light and ultimately merged into the background and architecture of the image.

"In art, the portrait has been a building block and a way to make a living, especially in the case of celebrity," said Kangas in an article contained in the exhibition catalogue. "How many mediocre photographs of celebrities exist? In my case, I wanted to photograph people because I hadn't done it, not overtly. I tend to like to photograph landscape. With landscape, you don't need anyone's cooperation. Since identity is so important to a portrait, I was interested in the question: 'Can you make a portrait that doesn't rely on identity?'"

Kangas will give an insightful discussion of his work as part of the gallery's Artist Lecture Series on Sunday, Jan. 25, at 2 p.m.

Meadow Brook Art Gallery, located in 208 Wilson Hall directly across from the main entrance of Meadow Brook Theatre, has delivered diverse, museum-quality art to the metro Detroit area for more than 40 years. The gallery is open noon to 5 p.m. every day except Monday and is open evenings during Meadow Brook Theatre performances. All exhibition events are free.

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, Meadow Brook Art Gallery director, at (248) 370-3005 or goody@oakland.edu.

SUMMARY

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