



Thursday, September 2, 2004

## Meadow Brook Art Gallery 2004-05 schedule unveiled

By **Dawn Pauli**, contributing writer

**Meadow Brook Art Gallery** (MBAG) recently unveiled its 2004-05 schedule featuring six exhibits, including a variety of artists using a wide range of media and processes.

The first show of the season premieres Saturday, Sept. 11, and is called "The Secret Life of Suburbia," featuring Michigan native and Chicago transplant Debra Sukenic.

"Anytime there's a news story they film the person's home, and it's always so odd, even if nothing happened at the home. It's a total reflection of who the person is through where she or he lives in their environment," Sukenic said. "The whole point of my work is that it's about memory and place, I mean, fragments and memory and how they connect. I don't want to overload one picture with a single narrative. I want there to be more possibilities."

This exhibit is curated by Dick Goody, Meadow Brook Art Gallery director.

"It is fascinating because it speaks to all of us personally. It deals with the identity of where we live," Goody said. "Deborah Sukenic makes paintings incorporating images of homes. These houses emanate the presence of those living within."

Behind the scenes, Goody and his staff have redesigned the gallery's archival space and reinstalled the permanent collection, making it safer and more accessible. Interns are updating the collection inventory with a state-of-the-art database.

"We've done a tremendous amount of work behind the scenes that unfortunately no one ever sees," Goody said.

Goody's goal is to help educate the studio arts students to become more knowledgeable about contemporary art.

"It's a strategic choice and will be a very dynamic season with many opportunities to hear artists lecture about their work, and, of course, there are always lectures exploring congruent and disparate themes," Goody said. "As always, we want all Oakland University students to feel that they can use the gallery as a place to meet and talk about art."

This year's lineup also features a guest curator, Doug Bulka, paper care specialist for the Detroit Institute of Arts, in his first collaboration with MBAG. He is curating the "Super Sized" exhibit in November.

"His expertise is in drawing and other works on paper," Goody said. "He has an encyclopedic knowledge of contemporary drawing and because of his reputation has been able to gather a group of eight eminent artists in what will be a breathtaking exhibition of large drawings, major works in their own right."

For more information on the gallery, visit the **Meadow Brook Art Gallery** Web site.

### 2004-2005 Schedule

#### "The Secret Life of Suburbia; An Exhibition" by Deborah Sukenic

**Sept. 11-Oct. 10**

Sukenic negotiates the enigmatic rituals of suburbia in her atmospheric paintings of this particularly American hinterland, which in her work is more a state of mind implying a disquieting sense of place. An exhibition catalogue and lectures will accompany the exhibit.

#### "Passage, Inference and Surface; Paintings by Wendy Roberts and Nolan Simon"

**Oct. 16-Nov. 14**

Less is more. The reductive, refined and visually economic abstract paintings are being exhibited in conjunction with the Meadow Brook Theatre (MBT) production of the comedic play “Art” by Yasmina Reza. The exhibit will be accompanied by an exhibition catalogue, lectures and a spectacular joint opening night with MBT, including a special discount on opening night theatre tickets.

**“Super Sized”  
Nov. 20-Dec 19**

Curated by Doug Bulka, graphic arts conservator for the Detroit Institute of Arts, this exhibition, which features six artists, gives audiences the opportunity to compare and contrast large drawings from Michigan and New York. An exhibition catalogue and lectures will accompany the exhibit.

**“Four Projects” by Julie Sando  
Jan. 15-Feb. 27**

Curated by Dick Goody, this exhibition features Canadian photographer Julie Sando, dissecting the role of women’s domestic working life inside and outside the home. An exhibition catalogue and lectures will accompany the exhibit.

**“Communicable Consumption”  
March 18-April 17**

Detroit artist Phaedra Robinson creates a new kind of art experience with her own work and collaborations in this exhibit, which will be accompanied by a panel discussion and lectures.

**“Oakland University Senior Thesis Exhibition II”  
April 22-May 22**

Studio arts thesis projects and student artists’ talks.

**SUMMARY**

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