Changing Hands: Art Without Reservation
Contemporary Native North American Art from the West, Northwest, and Pacific

Preview party: Thursday, October 25, 8:00 p.m.–10:00 p.m.

From the political performance artist James Luna to the self-taught ceramist Pahponee, Changing Hands: Art Without Reservation features a diverse array of contemporary Native American artists whose work at once acknowledges and pushes the long tradition of Native American visual art.

This exhibition, the second in the Changing Hands series organized by the Museum of Arts & Design, New York, features approximately 150 works of art by more than 130 artists from areas west of the Mississippi including the Plains, Plateau, West Coast, Western Canada, Alaska, and Hawaii.

The curators of Changing Hands offer an alternative to the anthropological approach of many Native American art exhibitions that focus on tribal affiliation and emblematic styles. Changing Hands is instead organized in four conceptual categories: The Human Condition, Material Evidence, Beyond Function, and Nature as Subject. These interpretive frameworks address the ideas, materials, and practices at play in the arena of contemporary Native art, and elucidate how these works fit not only in the context of Native culture, but also in the contemporary art world.

Works identified with “The Human Condition” explore provocative questions about personal and cultural identity in the twenty-first century, with reference to political and environmental concerns, belief systems, and the individual’s place in the cultural context. The diverse artists featured in this section include James Luna, C. Maxx Stevens, David Bradley, Susie Silook, and others.

The work in the category “Material Evidence” acknowledges the centrality of the artist’s engagement with materials and the role specific materials have played in the visual heritage of Native North Americans. The work in this section, featuring artists such as Rick Bartow, Preston Singletary, Sonya Kelliher-Combs, and Juanita Pahdopony, rejects hierarchical distinctions between art, design, and craft.

(continued)
In the category “Beyond Function,” references to everyday objects reveal cultural meaning and status above and beyond the practical. Artists working in this thematic area include Teri Greeves, Tom Haukaas, Lisa Telford, and Minnesota natives Todd Defoe and Todd Lonedog Bordeaux.

An engagement with flora and fauna, topography, and the progression of seasons is at play in many of the works in the category “Nature as Subject.” Artists highlighted in this category include Pahponee, Glen Nipshank, Mary Longman, and Kevin Pourier.

The presentation of such accomplished and thought-provoking work by so many and so diverse a group of living Native North American artists begs the question: Is there a renaissance of creative work by this community or is this a long-overdue recognition of the cultural and artistic contributions made and still being made by the Native population of this continent? As Changing Hands demonstrates, it is in reality, both. The Weisman Art Museum is pleased to offer this opportunity to view and engage with this work and this question.

Credit information:

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The Weisman’s presentation is sponsored by Target, with additional funding provided by the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community.

General museum information:

The Weisman is located at 333 E. River Road in Minneapolis. Museum hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday: 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.; Thursday: 10:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday: 11:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Public Parking is available in the museum ramp for the posted rates. There is no admission fee to the Weisman. For more information, please visit www.weisman.umn.edu or call 612-625-9494.

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RELATED PROGRAMS
CHANGING HANDS: ART WITHOUT RESERVATION

Changing Hands programs are free unless otherwise noted.

OPENING RECEPTION
Thursday, October 25, 8:00–10:00 p.m.
Tickets: $15/$10 WAM members, students, and seniors
To RSVP, call 612-626-4747.

ARTISTS' FORUM
A View from the Inside: Contemporary Native American Artists
Rick Bartow and C. Maxx Stevens with moderator Joe Horse Capture
Sunday, October 28, 2:00 p.m.

Join artists Rick Bartow and C. Maxx Stevens, who will discuss their work and the issues of innovation and tradition in contemporary Native American art practice. Based in South Beach, Oregon, Rick Bartow creates sculpture and paintings in which figuration and abstraction merge, offering what he calls “transformational mythology, both personal and shared.” His wood sculpture, Bear with Humor, is featured in Changing Hands. C. Maxx Stevens, from Boulder, Colorado, works in mixed media to create intriguing, powerful installations and sculptures. Her exhibition piece, Memory Prom Dress, is made from printed digital images, chicken wire, a metal armature, braided horsehair, and found objects. Moderator Joe Horse Capture is associate curator of African, Oceanic, and Native American Art at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts.

GALLERY TALK
Jane Blocker and Andrea Carlson
Wednesday, November 7, Noon

Hear critical and artistic perspectives on work in Changing Hands and participate in the discussion. Jane Blocker is associate professor of Art History at the University of Minnesota with a specialization in contemporary art and critical theory. Andrea Carlson is a Minneapolis-based painter whose work explores cultural heritage and authenticity.

LECTURE
Of This Continent
W. Jackson Rushing III
Thursday, November 15, 7:00 p.m.

Art historian W. Jackson Rushing III will situate Changing Hands in a critical context, focusing on contemporary indigenous art theory, environmentalism and aesthetic geography, and the intersection of tradition and new media. Rushing is professor of Aesthetic Studies and Associate Dean of Graduate Studies at the University of Texas at Dallas School of Arts and Humanities.

GALLERY TALK
Todd Bockley and Jeffrey Chapman
Thursday, November 29, 7:00 p.m.

Hear critical and artistic perspectives on work in Changing Hands and participate in the discussion. Jeffrey Chapman is an artist and a teaching specialist in Post Secondary Teaching and Learning at the University of Minnesota. Todd Bockley is a Minneapolis artist and independent curator.
CHANGING HANDS: ART WITHOUT RESERVATION
Contemporary Native North American Art from the West, Northwest & Pacific
October 26, 2007–January 6, 2008
Digital images available upon request.
Contact Emily Foxen at wampr@umn.edu or call 612-626-5241.

Rick Bartow
Bear with Humor, 2004
Wood, nails, metal, tar
Photo: Rebekah Johnson

David Bradley
Land O Bucks, Land O Fakes, Land O Lakes, 2003
Paint, paper, wood
Photo: Dan Morse

Lisa Telford
A Night on the Village, 2004
Red cedar bark, guinea feathers, cotton
Photo: Craig Smith

Teri Greeves
Khoiye-Goo Mah, 2004
Glass beads, silver-lined glass beads, commercially manufactured tennis shoes
Photo: Eva Heyd

C. Maxx Stevens
Memory From Dress, 2005
Printed digital images on paper, mixed media
Photo: Azad Photography

Pahponee
New Age, 2003
White clay
Photo: Azad Photography

Pauline
Cultural Identity, 2004
Mannequin, fabric, beads, yarn, yarn
Photo: Eva Heyd