

WAM

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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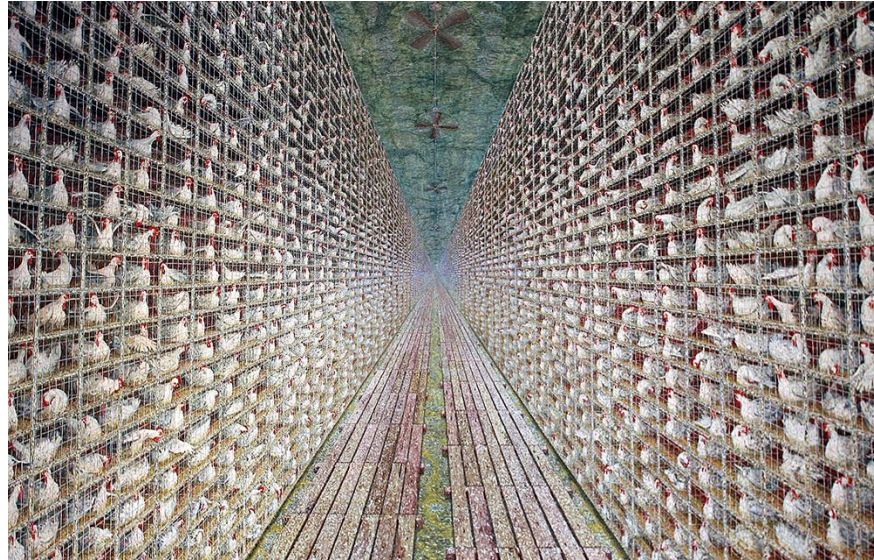
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**Weisman Art Museum Presents an Eclectic Survey Exhibition,
*Doug Argue: Letters to the Future***

May 24, 2023, Minneapolis, MN: Weisman Art Museum (WAM) is pleased to present [Doug Argue: Letters to the Future](#), on view from June 17 – September 10, 2023. The [opening event](#) for this exhibition includes an artist talk with Doug Argue and guest curator Liz Armstrong, followed by an opening party, on Friday, June 16, 6 - 10 p.m.

[Doug Argue](#) emerged onto the Twin Cities art scene in the early 1980s. At the age of 22, he had already filled a studio with sensational, larger-than-life paintings made on a scale for museums. Their enormous size aside, his gnarly, expressionist images stood apart from current art fashion. In place of the abstract or conceptual art of so many of his contemporaries, Argue's early imagery featured intensified personal memories and the eccentric denizens of his imagination.



After becoming a parent, he created a series of works that feature fathers and sons. Subdued in size and intensity, these works contain a childlike curiosity about the world that aligns with their subject. In the mid-1990s, when he was again making work on a grander scale, word spread about a new painting—not yet exhibited, but already drawing attention. This canvas, an untitled work which became known as the “Chicken Painting,” was a tour-de-force. From the time it was loaned to the Weisman and put on view, it was an immediate favorite of visitors to the museum.

Since the 2000s, through paintings that are more controlled and cerebral, Argue has explored his interest in time, space, and the nature of perception. He made several trips to Italy to study painting techniques of the great masters of the Italian Renaissance. Awed by the monumentality of these historic canvases and the way in which they envelop the viewer, Argue reaches for a similar sense of immersion through the large scale and movement of his imagery.

Curated by Elizabeth Armstrong, *Doug Argue: Letters to the Future* gives visitors a chance to see the evolution of this artist's prolific output. His vision of the world has grown exponentially through his travel, research, and many friendships with creatives around the globe. Yet, above all, it has been the sheer act of painting that has inspired the growth—as he calls it, the “artistic Darwinism”—that has shaped this hometown artist.

Exhibition dates: June 17 – September 10, 2023

Media Preview

Tuesday, June 13, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Weisman Art Museum | Coffee and pastries will be provided.

An early look at the exhibition for members of the press with artist Doug Argue, guest curator Liz Armstrong, and WAM Senior Curator Diane Mullin. Interview and photo opportunities available. **RSVP by Monday, June 12 by emailing susannah@umn.edu.**

[Press images, captions, and credits are available here >>](#)

Upcoming Event:

OPENING TALK & PARTY

FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 6 – 10 P.M.

Artist Talk: 6:30 p.m. (Doors at 6 p.m.)

Opening Party: 7:30 – 10 p.m.

TICKETS: \$20 General Admission (\$15/WAM Members, UMN Faculty & Staff)

FREE for students

The evening will begin with a conversation between Doug Argue and guest curator Liz Armstrong, followed by a party, where you can enjoy summery small bites, a cash bar, music, and get a first look at this arresting exhibition of work.

Image credits: (Top to Bottom) *Doug Argue, The Future is Not What it Used to Be* (detail), 2006. Oil on linen. 78 x 55 in. Loan from the Hargreaves collection. Image courtesy of the artist; Doug Argue, *Untitled (Chicken Painting)*, 1994. Oil on canvas. 144 x 216 in. Loan from Cafesjian Art Trust. Image courtesy of the artist.

About Weisman Art Museum

Since its origin in 1934, Weisman Art Museum has been a teaching museum for the University of Minnesota. Today, education remains central to the museum's mission to create art experiences that spark discovery, critical thinking, and transformation, linking the University and the community. The Weisman is located at 333 East River Road, Minneapolis, on the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus. Gallery admission and membership are always free. For more information, visit www.wam.umn.edu.

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