

Ohio Arts Council's
RIFFE GALLERY Presents



NEW NARRATIVES

Paintings by Ohio Artists

Ron Anderson
Adam Brouillette
Donna Coleman
Diane Fitch
Edwin George
Deborah Morrissey-McGoff
Aka Pereyima
Lisa Schare
Michael R. Stillion
Laura A. Vinnedge
Brian R. Williams
Ronald Williams

Curator Dominique H. Vasseur,
Columbus Museum of Art

May 7 – July 12, 2009



NEW NARRATIVES

Paintings by Ohio Artists

There is great truth in the adage “a picture is worth a thousand words.” Painters have been telling stories through their art since time began, and narrative painting is just that, painterly story-telling. Whether depicting important religious stories and historical events or commemorating the lives of famous individuals, narrative painting generally has been reserved for the most elevated and serious of subjects.

With all of the changes the art world has seen, it may be surprising that narrative painters today still tackle serious topics through their art but often in visually different ways, ones that challenge a traditional definition of narrative painting. The 12 Ohio artists in this exhibition make paintings that deal with war; social, economic and political issues; global warming; the effects of chemicals on our health; as well as matters of race and gender. Their narratives range from age-old Native American life stories to traditional Ukrainian folk songs that offer explanations of human emotion and behavior to highly personal and autobiographical stories that defy easy explanation.

These artists tell their stories in a variety of ways, directly and indirectly, by using human figures or with pictograms—visual metaphors. While narrative paintings generally require a human presence, some of these artists let inanimate objects do the communicating. The mystery of these non-populated stories helps to expand the usual meaning of narrative painting. These artists also use a wide range of painting styles from the photographic to the near abstract. As a result, this exhibition is a testimony to the diversity and breadth of individual expression found in the work of these 12 Ohio artists who are young and not-so young, male and female, black and white, and of European, African, and Native American heritage. Clearly, they all are actively engaged with the world and invite us here to look—and listen—to the stories they have to tell.

Dominique H. Vasseur, Exhibition Curator

ARTISTS IN THE EXHIBITION

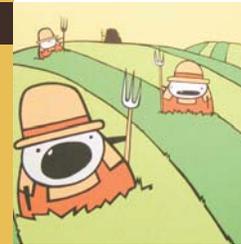
RON ANDERSON

She Just Loves to Dance, 2008
oil on canvas
35 x 47”
Collection of the artist



ADAM BROUILLETTE

Great State, 2009
site-specific painted mural
10 x 11’
Courtesy of the artist



DONNA COLEMAN

The Dog Park, 2005
oil on canvas
36 x 40”
Collection of the artist



DIANE FITCH

Vietnam 1969, 2006
oil on canvas
48 x 96”
Collection of the artist



EDWIN GEORGE

Earth Spirit Rising, 2007
acrylic on canvas
22 x 30"

From the collection of Dale and
Shirley Furman, Irvine, California



DEBORAH MORRISSEY-MCGOFF

An Old Friend, 2008
oil on wood panel
48 x 48"

Collection of the artist



AKA PEREYMA

White Swans from the
Ukrainian Folksong series, 2006
oil on canvas
30 x 38"

Collection of the artist



LISA SCHARE

While Rome Burned, 2008
oil on metal panel
9 3/4 x 10 1/2"

Collection of the artist



MICHAEL R. STILLION

Hermit Hut, 2007
oil on canvas
59 1/2 x 46 1/4"
Collection of the artist



LAURA A. VINNEDGE

Chemical Warfare: PBDE, PFA, PCB,
2009

latex, oil, enamels, resins, and
stickers on two panels
36 x 80 x 3"

Collection of the artist



BRIAN R. WILLIAMS

Narcolepsy Date, 2006-08
alkyd oil on canvas
48 x 36"

Collection of the artist



RONALD WILLIAMS

Yield on Greed, 2003
oil on canvas
48 x 48"

Collection of the artist





Ohio Arts Council's
RIFFE GALLERY



WE'RE BUILDING OHIO THROUGH THE ARTS

For more information visit: www.riffegallery.org

RIFFE GALLERY LOCATION:

Downtown Columbus
Vern Riffe Center for
Government & the Arts
77 South High Street, First Floor



GALLERY HOURS:

Tu.....10-4
W, Th, F.....10-8
Sat12-8
Sun12-4
Closed Mondays,
Friday, July 3,
Saturday, July 4



CONTACT:

Phone: 614/644-9624
TTY/TDD use Ohio Relay Service
1-800-750-0750
E-mail: riffegallery@oac.state.oh.us

FREE ADMISSION!

The Ohio Arts Council is a state agency that funds and supports quality arts experiences to strengthen Ohio communities culturally, educationally and economically.

Ted Strickland, Governor
Susan Saxbe, OAC Board Chair
Julie S. Henahan, OAC Executive Director

The Ohio Arts Council is an equal opportunity employer.

The Ohio Arts Council's Riffe Gallery showcases the work of Ohio's artists and curators, exhibitions produced by the Ohio Arts Council's International Program and the collections of the region's museums and galleries. The Riffe Gallery's Education Program seeks to increase public appreciation and understanding of those exhibitions.

OHIO ARTS COUNCIL
727 East Main Street
Columbus, OH 43205-1796
614/466-2613

Front & Back Images: AKA PERYMA, *White Swans* from the Ukrainian Folksong series (details), 2006, oil on canvas, 30 x 38"

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