



New Orleans Museum of Art

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Three Contemporary Exhibitions Open in June

Artists featured include Jones and Webber, von Haselberg and Coates

[Hi-res images of work by each artist available upon request.]

NEW ORLEANS (Tuesday, May 26, 2009)—Three new exhibitions of work by living artists—**Rachel Jones and David Webber** (two-person), **Martin von Haselberg** and **Marcus Coates**—will open in June at the New Orleans Museum of Art. All three will be celebrated at a combined opening preview and artist reception on **Wednesday, June 10**, from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

The first of these exhibitions, ***Mnemonic Devices: Rachel Jones and David Webber***, featuring recent work by the Louisiana-based artists, will open June 6 and continue through August 23 in the second-floor Weisman Gallery for Louisiana Contemporary Art. ***FLOATULENTS: Inflatable Photographs by Martin von Haselberg***, the first American solo museum exhibition for the Los Angeles-based artist, and ***Marcus Coates: Animal Instincts***, comprised of five videos from the past 10 years by the British artist, open June 10, also on the second floor.

An updated schedule of current and upcoming exhibitions at the New Orleans Museum of Art follows this release. All three of the new contemporary art exhibitions are organized by the New Orleans Museum of Art. Titles, dates and summaries are as follows:

Mnemonic Devices: Rachel Jones and David Webber, June 6 to August 23

A duo of Louisiana artists, Rachel Jones and David Webber explore the process of selecting and assembling information from memories and pre-existing documents into new visual amalgams. Working in painting and video respectively, the artists share an interest in dissolving imagery and narratives into expressive fragments. In her paintings, Jones depicts loosely-defined human figures and landscapes which hover on the edge of recognition. Webber, working in video, superimposes images on top of each other, evoking the cognitive process of recollection as it is built through associations. Organized by Miranda Lash, Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art.

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FLOATULENTS: Inflatable Photographs by Martin von Haselberg, June 10 to September 6

Martin von Haselberg (a.k.a. Harry Kipper) was a member of the infamous London and Los Angeles-based 1970s performance art duo, The Kipper Kids. Also in the early '70s he began evolving his deeply psychological public performance work into personal photographic self-portraiture, a practice which he continues today. His artistic lineage leads the viewer from the slapstick clowning of Spike Jones to the heightened abreaction of the 1960s Vienna Aktionists. In this, von Haselberg's first American museum show, his latest photographic experiments are presented as inflatable works, which instead of rising into the air, rest upon the floor as sculptures. "FLOATULENTS" are air balloons in the sense of Warhol's 1964 "Silver Flotations," but they are more than mere design. Von Haselberg describes these new works as "time-based," as springing from the facial contortions and grimaces of his performances. FLOATULENTS is the third in the *_museological* exhibition series, organized by Diego Cortez, Freeman Family Curator of Photography.

Marcus Coates: Animal Instincts, June 10 to August 23

Presented in NOMA's new permanent video art space, *Marcus Coates: Animal Instincts* is comprised of five video pieces featuring a range of work from the past 10 years. Ornithologist, naturalist, artist, and shaman, Coates creates videos that examine humankind's complicated relationship to other living species. Assuming the role of a shaman in his later pieces, Coates journeys to the "lower world" of animal spirits, updating the historical role of a shaman as a community problem-solver. In his own words, "you can't escape your humanness, but the point of my work has been to explore the degrees to which you can test that boundary and entertain the possibility of becoming something else." Organized by Miranda Lash, Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art.

About NOMA and the Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden

The New Orleans Museum of Art, founded in 1910 by Isaac Delgado, houses more than 30,000 art objects encompassing 4,000 years of world art. Works from the permanent collection, along with continuously changing temporary exhibitions, are on view in the Museum's 46 galleries Wednesdays from noon to 8 p.m. and Thursdays to Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission to the Museum is free to Louisiana residents through the generosity of The Helis Foundation.

Admission to the adjacent Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden, featuring work by 59 artists, including several of the 20th century's great master sculptors, is always free during regular Museum hours.

The New Orleans Museum of Art and the Besthoff Sculpture Garden are fully accessible to handicapped visitors and wheelchairs are available from the front desk.

For more information, call (504) 658-4100 or visit www.noma.org.



Current and Upcoming Exhibitions

Major Exhibitions

The Art of Caring: A Look at Life through Photography
Through October 11, 2009

Dreams Come True: Art of the Classic Fairy Tales from the Walt Disney Studio
November 15, 2009 to March 14, 2010

More Special Exhibitions

Expression, Innovation and Design: Studio Ceramics from the Permanent Collection
Through June 7, 2009

Evening in Paris: NOMA Celebrates the City of Light with Posters and Photographs from the Permanent Collection
Through June 28, 2009

Author and Subject: Murasaki Shikibu and The Tale of Genji
Through June 29, 2009

*Women Artists in Louisiana, 1825-1965: A Place of Their Own**
Through September 13, 2009

The Mind's Eye: Without Subject Matter, What Does the Artist See?
Through October 11, 2009

Mnemonic Devices: Rachel Jones and David Webber
June 6 to August 23, 2009

FLOATULENTS: Inflatable Photographs by Martin von Haselberg
June 10 to September 6, 2009

Marcus Coates: Animal Instincts
June 10 to August 23, 2009

With a Little Help From Our Friends: New Acquisitions in the Decorative Arts
June 20, 2009 to January 3, 2010

*William Woodward [working title]**
October 17, 2009 to February 28, 2010

Skylar Fein: Youth Manifesto
September 12 to December 13, 2009

Kathe Kollwitz: Graphics from the Stein Collection
November 15, 2009 to March 14, 2010

*co-organized by NOMA and The Historic New Orleans Collection