

MUSEUM OF ART

RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN

224 Benefit Street
Providence
Rhode Island
02903-2723



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NEWS | EVENTS | EXHIBITIONS

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Odyssey: The Photographs of Linda Connor reflects an artist's aesthetic journey to diverse contemplative settings in the United States, Egypt, India, Mexico, Nepal, southeast Asia, Tibet, and Turkey. Whether focusing on devotional sites and monuments, the natural world, or the spirit embedded in everyday life, Connor's visually radiant images project a combination of timelessness and a palpable sense of the passage of time—as in her images of a mosque in Egypt, or the intricate canopy of branches in Hawaii, or a prayer flag amid shrines in India. Some of her photographs also consider the interplay of natural and manmade subjects, our human aspirations, and nature's entropy, such as a Thai statue of Buddha entwined in the gnarled roots of a tree.

Connor's artistry is visible in her compelling imagery, and also in her distinct photographic technique. She captures her images using a large-format camera to achieve remarkable clarity and rich detail. Her prints are created by direct contact of the eight-by-ten-inch negative on printing-out paper and developed in the sunlight of her garden. She then tones and fixes the prints with gold chloride, giving them a luminosity and delicacy seldom found in standard photographic printing.

The exhibition offers a new way to experience Connor's work. Her best-known images of the past 30 years are interspersed with new work in artist-composed sequences that dislodge a sense of linear time or specific place. Connor instead gives viewers the space to experience their own odysseys.



Linda Connor, *Prayer Flag and Chortens, Ladakh, India*, 1988. ©2009 Linda Connor, courtesy of the artist and Haines Gallery, San Francisco

Connor (RISD BFA '67) studied with Harry Callahan at RISD and with Aaron Siskind at the Institute of Design in Chicago. A California Bay Area resident, she has been deeply involved in the region's photographic community as an esteemed instructor at the San Francisco Art Institute for over 40 years and as the founder of PhotoAlliance, a Bay Area non-profit that supports contemporary photography. In addition, she has exhibited widely in the U.S. and abroad and has been published in numerous books and journals. Her work is held in major museum collections, including the Art Institute of Chicago; Museum of Modern Art, New York; and the Victoria & Albert Museum, London; and is richly represented in The RISD Museum. Her work has been recognized by the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts, among other supporters.

"We are honored to have this opportunity to bring Linda Connor back to RISD through this special presentation of her work," commented Jan Howard, Curator of Prints, Drawings, and Photographs at The RISD Museum. "She has a large fan base among the photography community here and we are excited to co-sponsor her lecture with the RISD Photography Department in their T.C. Colley lecture series this October."

Odyssey: The Photographs of Linda Connor will be on display July 2 through October 31 in the Linda and Vincent Buonanno Works on Paper Gallery and the adjoining Bill and Nancy Tsiaras Gallery in Honor of Aaron Siskind. Organized by Hal Fischer Associates, the show is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue. Curator of Prints, Drawings, and Photographs Jan Howard will present a gallery talk on Tuesday, July 20 at noon. Linda Connor will deliver the T.C. Colley Lecture on Tuesday, October 26 at 7:00 pm.

welcome new members! jan, feb + mar 2010

Radeke Patron
Pamela Stanton + Jack O'Donnell

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Thomas Freeman
Jamie Goldstein
Jon + Angela Kamen
Stephen + Mariesa Lane

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Jeffrey + Paula Bird
Christine Borghi-Cavallaro
Bonnie Buck
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Mary Cappy
Daniel Chaika + Imelda Laniefsky
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Elizabeth Curtin
Linda Darman + Lasse Antonsen
Kathy Del Sesto + Bruce Farrell
Mary Donnelly
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Glen + Nancy Dubler
Kathryn Fanelli + Andrew Olendzki
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Michael Medeiros
Stephen Key + Melanie Mitchell
Randall + Ann Klimper
Veronika Komonczy
Angie Koziara + Tom Wojcik
Sandra Krupp
Iwona + Martin Lapczyk
Cecile Lemley
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Max + Linda McGoldrick
Neelu Mehrotra
John Menna
Irina Mirsky-Zayas
Robert + Susan Montgomery
Jorge Morales
Robin Wheelwright Ness + James Draper
Ann + Perwaiz Nihal
John + Peggy Nugent
Sara Nugent + Greg Hancox
Kerry + Alli O'Neil

Matthew Oneill
Sarah Ostholthoff + Robert St. John
Barbara Pagh
Elizabeth Papp
Anthony + Joan Paolino
Mary Partington
Christina Phipps
Jeffrey + Patricia Plonsker
Pierce Raferty
Michael + Debra Raizman
Jim Reilly
Jenette Restivo
Jessica Rosner
Michael Russo + Catherine Cressy
Jake Salerno
Marc Segers
Roger Seitz
Nancy Starziano
John Strugar + Tamara Lazic
Cleophus Thomas
Oksana Unhuryan
Kimberly Turner + Joe Vona
Brother Enoch John Valentine
Thomas Ward
Lisa Wilson
Kenneth Wing
Isaac + Emily Wingfield
Susan Wolfson
Barbara + Steve Wrenn

general information

Hours
Tues.–Sun., 10am–5pm; third Thurs. monthly 5–9pm. **Closed the month of August**, New Year's Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.

Admission
Members, free; adults, \$10; senior citizens (62 years and older), \$7; youths (ages 5–18), \$3; children under 5, free; college students (w/valid ID), \$3. Free to all: third Thurs. monthly 5–9pm, and the last Sat. of the month (except Dec.). Pay-what-you-wish: Every Sun. 10am–1pm.

Information
Tel: 401 454-6500
Fax: 401 454-6556
Web site: www.risdmuseum.org
Email: museum@risd.edu
Enter through the Chace Center at 20 N. Main Street.

Access
Please call 401 454-6534 (TTY 800 745-5555) if you need assistance to participate in Museum tours or programs. The Museum is X accessible.

Parking
The Metropark lot at the corner of North Main and Steeple Streets offers discounted parking to Museum visitors. Validate your parking coupon at the Museum's front desk. RISD lots are available after 5pm weekdays and on weekends.

OF NOTE



Dear Members,

Summer often provides time for travel, whether actual or imagined. In June and July, The RISD Museum galleries offer glimpses of far-flung locales, as in Linda Connor's photographs, or familiar scenes, as in Winslow Homer's seascape *On a Lee Shore*. We celebrate our own state with the 10th Anniversary exhibition of The Art League of Rhode Island. Join us for some time travel with Nancy Selvage, as she speaks about her experience sitting for renowned portraitist Alice Neel 40 years ago.

How fortunate we have been this year for the dedication and talent of our volunteers! My sincere thanks to the docents, who engaged 16,000 schoolchildren and many adult visitors in the wonders of art and brought new insight to curriculum-based teaching; to the devoted event volunteers, who graciously assisted with Music Fridays, conferences and more; and to the Museum Associates, whose elegant and lively events, the annual holiday party and the spring gala, brought together the community in the joy of art and provided essential support for the Museum. In this past year of budget and staff reductions, the spirit and hard work of volunteers has energized and sustained us. We applaud their outstanding contributions.

The Museum will close for the month of August again this year, but behind the closed doors staff will be preparing for the reopening of the Ancient and Medieval Galleries, the Lynda Benglis retrospective, and many exciting new programs for the fall.

See you in the galleries,

Ann S. Woolsey

Ann S. Woolsey, Interim Director

Associates Gala

This year's Museum Associates fundraiser, *Le Cirque pour l'Art*, a circus-themed gala with a French flair, was held at the Museum on Saturday, May 1. Nearly 200 guests enjoyed cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and a performance of Dan Butterworth's marionettes while bidding on auction items. Guests bid on vacations, a dinner prepared by RISD President John Maeda, a selection of fine wines provided by members of the Museum's Board of Governors, and a glass sculpture by Jose Chardiet. Pictured here are chairman of the Museum Associates, Ewa Metcalf, and event co-chairs Cheryl Andreozzi and Marie Weiss.



PHOTO BY FRANK MULLIN.

Radeke Society Trip



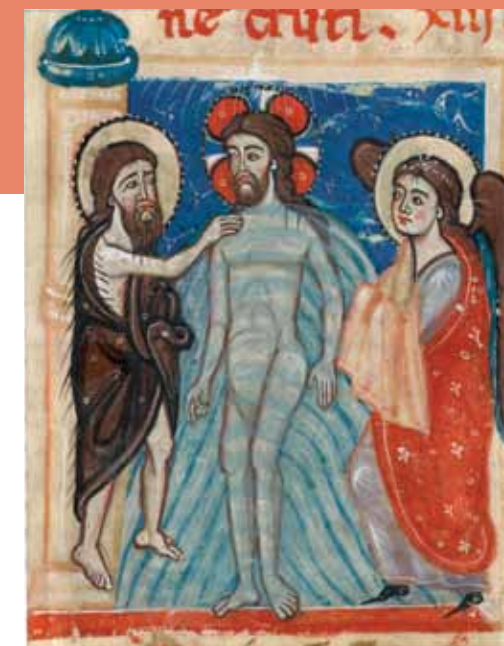
Members of the Eliza Radeke Society visited private collections, artist studios, and galleries in Chelsea on April 10. Pictured at Pat Steir's studio are (left to right) Sheree Kaplan Allen; Judy Mann; Jan Howard, Curator of Prints, Drawings, and Photographs; Dr. Joseph Chazan; and Pat Steir.

She's Digging the Museum

Janet Zurier may be officially retired after 22 years in the Providence Public Schools, but that hasn't stopped her from teaching. She has been an active Museum docent for the last 14 years, with hundreds of school tours to her credit. Her heart, however, will always be with Providence Public Schools, which is why Mrs. Zurier has been an early proponent of the Museum's program *Dig the Museum! Building Cultural Connections*. Among the first individuals to sponsor the program, with a generous gift of \$5,000, Janet Zurier says, "It's all about my desire to give Providence kids the opportunity to come to the Museum." The program has proved so popular that the Museum plans to expand its offerings to other districts in Rhode Island next year. If you are interested in learning more about *Dig the Museum!* or helping to support it, please contact Mariani Lefas-Tetenes, Educator, School and Teacher Programs, at 401 454-6552 or mlfest@risd.edu.



Developed for area public-school students, *Dig the Museum!* is a multi-part program connecting art and classroom curriculum. Above, Sarah LaPerle leads a class in the galleries.



Recent Acquisition

Master of Monza, active Lombardy, ca. 1270-90
Baptism of Christ (detail), ca. 1275-85
Watercolor on vellum
3 5/8 x 2 7/8 in.
Mary B. Jackson Fund.
Courtesy of Les Enluminures, Ltd.

The *Baptism of Christ* is a cutting from the one of the earliest surviving manuscripts of Jacobus de Voragine's *Golden Legend*, which recounts stories from the lives of the saints. Here John the Baptist is depicted baptizing Christ in a composition typical of medieval illuminations of the subject, with Christ standing in the waters of the Jordan flanked on one side by an angel holding his garments and John the Baptist, wearing a camel's hair cloak, on the other. The style of the illuminator, known as the Master of Monza, is characterized by the flat application of primary colors and the inclusion of small towers as compositional elements to frame the figures and trefoil dots to embellish the blue backgrounds or garments of his figures. In this depiction of the baptism, the artist shows Jesus turning towards John the Baptist and meeting his gaze, which lends an informal, intimate quality to the scene. This beautiful example of 13th-century miniature painting will be displayed in the renovated Creamer Medieval Gallery beginning September 23.

EXHIBITIONS



Siebren Versteeg, *Boom* (Fresher Acconci), 2007.
Mary B. Jackson Fund. ©Siebren Versteeg

opening this summer

The Art League of Rhode Island: The Art of Excellence

FRI JUNE 18 - SUN JULY 25

Waterman Gallery

Art League members include professional artists throughout the state. *The Art of Excellence* exhibition presents current artworks in all media by more than 80 artists. Included in this tenth-anniversary show are works by notable Rhode Island artists James Baker (RISD BFA '65, MFA '73), Gretchen Dow Simpson (RISD BFA '61), Howard Newman (RISD BFA '69), and Thomas Sgouros (RISD BFA '50).

Odyssey: The Photographs of Linda Connor

FRI JULY 2 - SUN OCT 31

Linda and Vincent Buonanno Works on Paper Gallery, and the Bill and Nancy Tsiaras Gallery in Honor of Aaron Siskind

This artist-designed installation of 72 photographs presents more than 30 years of work created by Linda Connor (RISD BFA '67), who has traveled the world in search of contemplative settings. Connor works with a large-format camera to capture the rich detail of her subjects with remarkable clarity. The resulting photographs, printed in the sunlight of her garden in direct contact with her eight-by-ten-inch negatives, are toned with gold chloride to achieve warmth and luminosity. The photographs in the exhibition, which were taken in the United States, Egypt, India, Mexico, Nepal, southeast Asia, Tibet, and Turkey, explore sites steeped in the passage of time and resonant with spirituality. Organized by Hal Fischer Associates, the show is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue.

currently on view

The Primacy of Paper: Recent Works from the Collection

Through SUN JUNE 20

Contemporary drawings and prints can function as key components of an artist's practice, and in recent years works on paper have come to challenge the primacy of painting and sculpture. This selection, intended to complement the exhibition *Pat Steir: Drawing Out of Line*, features recent works by Shahzia Sikander (RISD MFA '95), Julie Mehretu (RISD MFA '95), Kiki Smith, Sol LeWitt, and others for whom the act and process of drawing play a key role in the creation or rejection of meaning.

Presence through Process

Through SUN JUNE 20

The desire to depict the perceptual and physical experience of the human body, rather than merely its appearance, can serve as a catalyst for photographic experimentation. This exhibition presents works by Emmet Gowin (RISD MFA '67), Vik Muniz, Frederick Sommer, Lesley Dill, and others who explore the poetics and politics of the human figure. It features a cross-section of photographic processes from the latter half of the 20th century, from camera manipulation to more direct registers of presence.

Pat Steir: Drawing Out of Line

Through SAT JULY 3

Pat Steir (American, b. 1938), a major figure in American art since the 1970s, has created some of the most ambitious and challenging drawings of the late 20th century. *Pat Steir: Drawing Out of Line* presents 40 years of Steir's explorations of the vocabulary of drawing, and examines how those drawings relate to her paintings and prints. The exhibition includes a recreation of her wall drawing *Self-Portrait: An Installation*, first created in 1987 for the New Museum in New York. Support has been provided by the National Endowment for the Arts; Paula and Leonard Granoff; Locks Family Foundation; Judy and Robert Mann; John Cheim (RISD BFA '77); Howard Read (RISD BFA '76); and an anonymous donor. The Providence Tourism Council supported a free community day featuring the Big Draw.

AudioWinds #1

Through SAT JULY 10

Moore Terrace

Rhode Island-based writer, storyteller, and radio host Marc Levitt presents *AudioWinds #1*, an audio art installation on Moore Terrace, behind the entrance to the Chace Center. This location was, at various times, the site of a Narragansett Indian settlement; a homestead of original European settlers; a location for stables, factories, and rooming houses; and the center of Providence's commercial district. The piece is a multi-channel orchestration of sounds that might have been heard on this spot during the last few centuries.

Siebren Versteeg: In Advance of Another Thing

Through SUN OCT 10

Siebren Versteeg (American, b. 1971) uses online mass-media and commercial databases to investigate our media-saturated world, in which the real and the virtual have become intertwined. Versteeg's works employ computer programs that automatically connect to the Internet, browse different types of images, and bring them to monitors in a gallery space. This infinite flow of images, which creates a loose narrative, is a pseudo-random selection: the computer program chooses the images, but according to the artist's instructions. Some of Versteeg's works are inspired by seminal art works that commented on social and political issues of their own time, such as Jasper Johns's *Flag* series of paintings dating from the late 1950s and Vito Acconci's video *The Red Tapes* (1976). The exhibition includes Versteeg's *Boom* (Fresher Acconci), 2007, recently acquired for the Museum's collection. On view in the Spalter New Media Gallery.

Tristin Lowe: Under the Influence

Through SUN OCT 24

Philadelphia-based multidisciplinary artist Tristin Lowe (American, b. 1966) uses low-tech methods and materials, often employing absurdity and humor in his works. His newest series focuses on outer space, planets, satellites, black holes, gravity, and orbital motion. At The RISD Museum, the artist fills the Lower Farago Gallery with a giant moon made of felt, a fabric with ancient origins, formed through a process of accumulation, which absorbs energy, light, and sound.

The Figure: Contemporary Works from the Collection

Through MAR 2011

The human figure, one of the oldest motifs in the history of art, seems to be an inexhaustible source of inspiration for contemporary artists. The theme is represented here in a range of mediums and approaches, including painting, printmaking, sculpture, video, and needlework. Some artists represented in the exhibition use themselves as subject matter while others work with live models, photographs, or personal memory as a starting point. The selection of objects includes a number of recent acquisitions that are being exhibited at the Museum for the first time, including works by Tom Friedman, Tracey Emin, Keith Coventry, Judy Glantzman (RISD BFA '78), Ryan Trecartin (RISD BFA 2004) and Lizzie Fitch (RISD BARCH 2007), Allison Newsome (RISD MFA '83), and Grayson Perry, among others.

closing soon

Rapid Gestures: Waterfalls in British Romantic Art

Through SUN JUNE 6

Sitings 2010: Museum as Action

Through SUN JUNE 6



<<< Ryan Trecartin and Lizzie Fitch, *Take a Stand*, 2006.
On view in *The Figure*.
Phil Seibert Alumni Acquisition Fund and Helen M. Danforth Acquisition Fund.

EVENTS

adult programs

June

JUNE 1 Tues

Radeke Society Gallery Talk: Two Views by Van Gogh

5:30 pm | Danforth Lecture Hall

Join Maureen O'Brien, Curator of Painting and Sculpture, for an illuminating discussion of the Museum's two works by Van Gogh. Both have recently returned from exhibitions abroad, where comparisons with other works by Van Gogh produced new scholarship on the RISD works. Followed by a French-themed reception. By invitation only.

JUNE 17 Thurs

Gallery Night *free admission*

A free city-wide art evening. Third Thursday of the month, 5-9 pm

Take gallery exploration into your own hands. Enjoy the wide range of special programs and events. Listen to live music with wine and refreshments from our cash bar.

Music in the Radeke Garden (weather permitting): Rachel Maloney and Chris Turner, folk musicians, 6:30-8 pm

Gallery Talk

5:30 pm | Upper Farago, 6th Floor

Alice Neel's intimate portraits of friends, family, poets, and artists are known for their expressionistic use of line and color and their emotional intensity. In 1967, Nancy Selvage sat for the artist, and 43 years later she reflects on the experience in front of Neel's portrait.



Alice Neel, *Nancy Selvage*, 1967. On view in *The Figure*.
Gift of Richard and Hartley Neel. ©Alice Neel

Screening: Alice Neel

6:30 pm | Michael P. Metcalf Auditorium, Chace Center

Director Andrew Neel looks at the life and work of his grandmother, Alice Neel (1900-84), one of the 20th century's most celebrated portrait artists. This intimate documentary uses interviews, photos, and art to detail her struggles as a woman, a single mother, and a painter who defied convention. The enigmatic Alice sparked a revival of the genre by producing portraits that unmasked her subjects, who included Andy Warhol, poet Allen Ginsberg, and other notables. (USA/2008/81 min./not rated)

Opening: The Art League of Rhode Island: The Art of Excellence

5-9 pm | Waterman Gallery

Art League members include professional artists from 26 of the 39 cities and towns across the state. This exhibition features current work by more than 80 Rhode Island artists.

JUNE 29 Tues

Rhode Island Children's Chorus

3 pm | Michael P. Metcalf Auditorium, Chace Center

This group, founded in 2003, has sung with many adult choruses in the region and is featured on Bill Harley's children's album *I Wanna Play*, nominated for a 2007 Grammy Award.

July

JULY 15 Thurs

Gallery Night *free admission*

Gallery Talk: The Art League of Rhode Island: The Art of Excellence

6:30 pm | Waterman Gallery

Join Tom Sgouros (RISD BFA '50) and other artists featured in the exhibition as they discuss their work.

Music and refreshments in the Main Gallery: K.C. Moaners, folk and blues musicians, 6:30-8 pm

Screening: Rembrandt J'accuse

6:30 pm | Michael P. Metcalf Auditorium, Chace Center

Filmmaker Peter Greenaway's documentary brings art to life by meticulously examining Rembrandt's group portrait *Night Watch*, searching for clues to a murder and the motives of the characters depicted. Greenaway weaves in the social history of 17th-century Amsterdam as he unravels secret messages and a conspiracy that involves everyone in the painting (2008/100 min./not rated).

JULY 20 Tues

Gallery Talk: Odyssey: The Photographs of Linda Connor

12 noon | Linda and Vincent Buonanno Works on Paper Gallery and the Bill and Nancy Tsiaras Gallery in Honor of Aaron Siskind

Jan Howard, Curator of Prints, Drawings and Photographs, discusses Linda Connor's (RISD BFA '67) photographic concerns and process.

Lecture: Dessert in the Desert

5:30 pm | Michael P. Metcalf Auditorium, Chace Center

Artist, designer, independent curator, and former "first lady of RISD" Gayle Mandel (RISD MFA '97) returns to Providence from Qatar to discuss life and art in her new home. Sponsored by The Art League of Rhode Island.

JULY 25 Sun

Dan Butterworth's Marionettes

3 pm | Michael P. Metcalf Auditorium, Chace Center

Local puppeteer Dan Butterworth brings his marionettes to The RISD Museum. Dan and his intricately hand-carved puppets have performed in movies, operas, classical music festivals, and on TV specials, and his troupe has performed in Asia, Europe, and Latin America. Sponsored by The Art League of Rhode Island in conjunction with *The Art of Excellence* exhibition.



Find your own artistic inspiration at Gallery Night. The Education Department offers hands-on, adult art making experience with professional arts educators in the galleries. All materials are provided and no experience is necessary.

family programs

JUNE 26 Sat

Body Language

1-4 pm

Join us for an afternoon of special programs for families and visitors of all ages as we explore the special exhibition *The Figure: Contemporary Works from the Collection*. See how the human body has inspired artists from ancient times to the present through exhibition tours, group figure drawing, gallery time, and more.

JULY 3 Sat

Picturing Photography

11am-4pm

Distant lands appear familiar, the familiar becomes unknown. Explore the work of Linda Connor (RISD BFA '67), whose photographs capture timeless places, sacred sites, and the beauty of light. See the world around you through the lens of a camera in special afternoon programs for families and visitors of all ages.