

THE ART GALLERY



UNIVERSITY of NEW HAMPSHIRE

NEWS RELEASE

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GRADUATE PAINTERS PRESENT NEW WORK AT THE ART GALLERY, UNH

DURHAM, N.H. – An exhibition showcasing the artistic talents of two graduate students receiving a Masters of Fine Arts degree in painting from the University of New Hampshire’s Department of Art and Art History will be on view at The Art Gallery beginning Thursday, May 8, 2008. The “2008 M.F.A. Thesis Exhibition II” showcases the works of artists Erik Geoffrey Johnson of Newmarket and Kathi Smith of Madbury. A public reception with the artists will take place on Friday, May 9, from 5 – 6:30 p.m.

Johnson’s complex paintings explore the gap between a dream-like state and awakening. In his depiction of multiple figures in constrained spaces, emotional experiences develop into narrative depictions, causing the viewer to question the turbulent world of the real and the imagined.

In her landscapes, Smith juxtaposes man-made components and natural, organic elements. Using surface texture, light, and color, her paintings explore the relationship of objects to their environments.

Johnson and Smith will present a gallery talk on Wednesday, May 14, at noon in The Art Gallery, offered as part of the weekly ArtBreak series. The “2008 M.F.A. Thesis Exhibition II” will be on view through May 24, 2008, and is funded in part by the Department of Art and Art History.

Running concurrently is the “2008 Senior B.A. and B.F.A. Exhibition,” featuring the work of eleven candidates for the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, including: Lindsay Bezich of Dover; Shawn Burke of Durham; Kimberly DeCicco of Dover; Alissa Feller of Newmarket; Lily Finnigan-Allen of Newmarket; Sean Hurley of Portsmouth; Lauri E. Lannan of Windham; Cailin Mateleska of

Durham; K.Lee Mock of Portsmouth; Colleen Murphy of Dover; and Lindsay Forrest Wraga of Durham.

The “2008 M.F.A. Thesis Exhibition II” is funded in part by the Department of Art and Art History. Both graduate and undergraduate exhibitions are funded in part by the Friends of The Art Gallery.

The Art Gallery presents exhibitions and programs open to the public free of charge. Weekly programs offered in conjunction with the current exhibitions include:

ArtBreak Series: Wednesday, noon – 1 p.m.

All programs are in the Paul Creative Arts Center (PCAC).

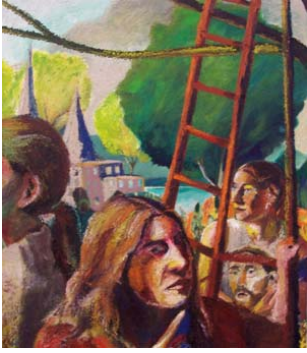
Wednesday, May 14, noon- 1 p.m.: Gallery Talk

Master of Fine Arts degree candidates Erik Geoffrey Johnson and Kathi Smith discuss their work currently on view in the “2008 M.F.A. Thesis Exhibition II.”

The Art Gallery is open during the academic year: Monday-Wednesday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday, 1-5 p.m.; closed Fridays and May 5-7. The Art Gallery will be open on Commencement Day, Saturday, May 24, from 1-3 p.m.

The exhibitions and programs are supported in part by the Friends of The Art Gallery. Guided group tours for schools and other organizations are available with advance reservation by contacting Catherine A. Mazur, education and publicity coordinator, at catherine.mazur@unh.edu or 603-862-3713. For more information on the exhibitions and programs, contact The Art Gallery at 603-862-3712, art.gallery@unh.edu, or visit www.unh.edu/art-gallery.

Editors: The following high-resolution photos of works in the “2008 M.F.A. Thesis Exhibition II” are available for download:



Erik Geoffrey Johnson "Ladders," 2008, oil on canvas, 32" x 28"

http://www.unh.edu/art-gallery/images/MFA_II_2008/Erik_Johnson_Ladders.jpg



Kathi Smith, "Silhouettes," 2008, oil on panel, 12" x 14"

http://www.unh.edu/art-gallery/images/MFA_II_2008/Kathi_Smith_Silhouettes_2008_oil_on_panel_12_x_14.jpg