



NEWS RELEASE

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EMERGING ARTISTS' WORK ON VIEW AT THE UNH ART GALLERY

DURHAM, N.H. – Two outstanding exhibitions, the *2007 Senior B.A. and B.F.A. Exhibition* and the *2007 M.F.A. Thesis Exhibition (I)*, will be on view at The Art Gallery beginning April 21, 2007.

Showcasing the artistic talents of students graduating from the University of New Hampshire's Department of Art and Art History, the exhibitions include a wide variety of artistic work—painting, ceramics, photography, drawing, and printmaking. Both exhibitions will open with a preview reception on Friday, April 20, from 6 – 8 p.m. The artists will be present for the reception, which is open to the public. Admission is free.

The *2007 Senior B.A. and B.F.A. Exhibition* features works by five candidates for the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, including: Jason P. Bombaci, of Concord, NH ; Maggie Cedarstrom of Meredith, NH; Chris Hobbs of Hampstead, NH; Ryan Murphy of Cambridge, MA; and Nathaniel Raymond of Exeter, NH. In addition, the exhibition will highlight the work of candidates for the Bachelor of Art degree in studio art, including: Colleen Murphy of Woodstock, VT; Matthew Perdoni of Durham, NH; Alexandra Ross-Raymond of Salisbury, NH; Lauren B. Rowe of Rochester, NH; Matthew Soltesz of Madbury, NH; Ryan Tirrell of Durham, NH; and Jocelyn Toffic of Dover, NH.

The *2007 Senior B.A. and B.F.A. Exhibition* will be on view through May 19, 2007, but will be closed to the public May 3 – 7.

As the culmination of an intense program of study, the students enrolled in the B.F.A. program draw upon their own experiences and interests to develop a strong body of work to exhibit in The Art Gallery. Through both abstract and representational means, these artists explore the visual relationships among form, light, and color. The subjects of their work range from familiar settings to imaginary spaces, from figurative to landscape to still-life arrangements. Jason P. Bombaci has created a series of paintings based on three primary locations—his studio, his living room, and a dilapidated greenhouse. He painted in each location at the same time of day to capture the particular light and color at that time. Maggie Cedarstrom creates larger-than-life-sized self-portraits—while they reveal familiar physical features, they also explore a deeper psychological and emotional world. Chris Hobbs's paintings of empty chairs in sparse interior spaces evoke a quiet, contemplative mood, while Ryan Murphy's imaginative compositions, with figures placed in both interior spaces and the landscape, are based on direct observation and past memories. In contrast, Nathaniel Raymond's black-and-white prints, although loosely based on landscape, are both ambiguous and atmospheric. His monoprints imply a depth of space while acknowledging the flatness of the picture plane.

A more intensive artistic exploration can be viewed in the concurrent exhibition showcasing the works of graduate students in the M.F.A. degree program in painting. The *2007 M.F.A. Thesis Exhibition (I)*, features the work of M.F.A. candidates Sarah Meyers of Newmarket, NH, and James Rohal of Potomac, MD, and will be on view April 21 through May 2, 2007.

Rohal's portrayals of the human figure go beyond the personality of the individual sitter. Rather than painting portraits of his sitters, his introspective works develop their own enigmatic character, a process he likens to the act of storytelling. Meyers creates paintings of things normally associated with

joy and pleasure. Her canvases are energetic combinations of mark making and the rich application of paint.

The 2007 M.F.A. Thesis Exhibition (I) 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).

April 25: Gallery Talk by exhibiting M.F.A. candidates Sarah Meyers and James Rohal. The Art Gallery

May 2: Gallery Talk by B.F.A. candidates Jason P. Bombaci, Maggie Cedarstrom, Chris Hobbs, Ryan Murphy, and Nathaniel Raymond. The Art Gallery

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 3 – 7. The Art Gallery will be open on Commencement Day, Saturday, May 19, 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 exhibition are available for download:

Selected images from the *2007 Senior B.A. and B.F.A. Exhibition:*



Jason P. Bombaci, *Thursday Morning*, 2007, oil on canvas, 40" x 40"
http://www.unh.edu/art-gallery/images/BA_BFA_2007/Jason_P_Bombaci.JPG



Maggie Cedarstrom, *Jeans*, 2006, oil on canvas, 60" x 54"
http://www.unh.edu/art-gallery/images/BA_BFA_2007/Maggie_Cedarstrom.JPG



Chris Hobbs, *Chair 01*, 2006, oil on canvas, 36" x 24"
http://www.unh.edu/art-gallery/images/BA_BFA_2007/Chris_Hobbs.JPG



Ryan Murphy, *Trash Day*, 2007, oil on canvas, 30'' x 36''
http://www.unh.edu/art-gallery/images/BA_BFA_2007/Ryan_Murphy.JPG



Nathaniel Raymond, *cityscape, overseer*, 2007, drypoint/monoprint, 8'' x 5''
http://www.unh.edu/art-gallery/images/BA_BFA_2007/Nathaniel_Raymond.JPG

Selected images available from the 2007 *M.F.A. Thesis Exhibition (I)*:



James Rohal, *Tiffany in Wingback Chair*, 2006, graphite on paper, 36'' x 34''
http://www.unh.edu/art-gallery/images/MFA_I_2007/James_Rohal_Tiffany.JPG



Sarah Meyers, *Woman in the Flower Garden*, 2007, acrylic and mixed media on canvas, 38" x 44"
http://www.unh.edu/art-gallery/images/MFA_I_2007/Sarah_Meyers.JPG

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The Art Gallery * Paul Creative Arts Center * 30 College Road * Durham, NH 03824 * 603/862-3712