

THE ART GALLERY



UNIVERSITY of NEW HAMPSHIRE

NEWS RELEASE

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League of N.H. Craftsmen, Scheier Ceramics, and UNH Art Faculty Featured in Exhibitions Opening at UNH Art Gallery

DURHAM, NH –Three new exhibitions showcasing the paintings and furniture design of faculty members from the Department of Art and Art History, University of New Hampshire, as well as fine handcrafts produced by 75 members of the League of N.H. Craftsmen and works by renowned potters Edwin and Mary Scheier, will be on view at The Art Gallery, UNH, from September 8 through October 17, 2008. The exhibitions, “Art Faculty Review: Rebecca Litt, Shiao-Ping Wang, and Leah Woods,” “League of N.H. Craftsmen: 25th Biennial Members’ Juried Exhibition,” and “Ceramics by Edwin and Mary Scheier: The Durham Years,” will open with a public preview reception on Friday, September 7, from 6 – 8 p.m., sponsored by Hannaford Supermarkets. Admission is free.

Art Faculty Review: Rebecca Litt, Shiao-Ping Wang, and Leah Woods

“Art Faculty Review: Rebecca Litt, Shiao-Ping Wang, and Leah Woods” highlights work by new studio art faculty members in the Department of Art and Art History at UNH. Rebecca Litt’s paintings of dense urban landscapes present momentary views of individual characters rushing through the contemporary world, captured by energetic marks of vivid color. Shiao-Ping Wang’s paintings examine cyclical changes found in life, culture, and nature through the use of layered paint and fabric. Leah Woods’s furniture designs are inspired by her interest in the world of women’s fashion and the value that society places on beauty.

League of N.H. Craftsmen: 25th Biennial Members' Juried Exhibition

The “League of N.H. Craftsmen: 25th Biennial Members' Juried Exhibition” is presented as part of the 75th anniversary celebration of the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen. Founded in 1932 to help New Hampshire craftspeople make a living through the difficult financial times of the Depression, the League of N.H. Craftsmen is one of the oldest and most prestigious craft organizations in the country. Showcasing the artistry of many juried and supporting members of the League, the exhibition features 91 hand-crafted works—in basketry, clay, fiber, glass, jewelry, mixed media, metal, printmaking, photography, woodworking, and furniture—by 75 craftspeople. Beth Ann Gerstein, executive director of The Society of Arts and Crafts, Boston, is the juror for exhibition awards, which will be presented during the Sept. 7 preview reception. According to League Executive Director Susie Lowe-Stockwell, “This juried exhibition includes a diverse range of craft pieces, each selected for its beauty and unique handmade qualities.”

Participants in the “League of N.H. Craftsmen: 25th Biennial Members' Juried Exhibition” include: Polly Allen, Lebanon; Chris Archer, Manchester; David Belser, Penacook; Mary Alice Bishop, S. Acworth; Ted Blachly, Warner; Dawn Blanchard, Henniker; Stuart Blanchard, Strafford; Susan Bliss, Warner; Peter Bloch, New London; Doug Blum, Wolfeboro; Megan Bogonovich, Concord; Sarah Burns, New Durham; Deborah Cary, Mirror Lake; Tim Christensen-Kirby, Rollinsford; Cheryl Christenson, Hillsboro; Jeffrey Cooper, Portsmouth; Judith Copeland, Manchester; Sally Cornwell, Wolfeboro; Kathleen Curtin, Tamworth; Terri Ellen Donsker, North Hampton; Sarah Drummond, Kittery Point, ME; Sharon Dugan, Sanbornton; Kathleen Dustin, Contoocook, Lawrence Elbroch, Kittery, ME; Victoria Elbroch, Kittery, ME; Sarah Fortin, Mason; Marsha Francis, Portsmouth; Jane Frenke, Berkeley Springs, WV; Deborah Grant, Manchester; Genevieve Groesbeck, Peterborough; Ethan Hamby and Shana Brautigam, Rindge; Andy Hampton, Concord; Judith Heller Cassell, Rochester; Peg Irish, Madbury; Jane Kaufmann, Durham; Catherine Ladu, Peterborough; William Laughlin, Nashua; Devitt Liptak, Gilford; Susan Lirakis Nicolay, Center Sandwich; Glen MacInnis, Auburn; Thomas McGurrin, Sanbornton; Barbara McLaughlin, Stratham; Janice Miller, Jaffrey; Maureen Mills, Portsmouth; Bruce Murray, Bradford, VT; Ann Olson, Manchester; Karen Orsillo, Kittery Point, ME; Linda Perry, Hanover; Fred Puksta, Keene; Joy Raskin, Bedford; Wen Redmond, Strafford; Maureen Redmond-Scura, Concord; Lee Ring, Fryeburg, ME; Richard Ruppel, Randolph; Adele Sanborn, Webster; Marcosa Santiago, Rumney; William Schnute, Wilton; Lisa Sheiman,

Hopkinton; Jane Simpson, Dublin; Gillian Smith, Andover; Linda Sten, Madbury; Betsy Sterling Benjamin, Kingston; Pamela Sullivan, Dunbarton; Mary Margaret Sweeney, Kittery, ME; Teresa Taylor, Barnstead; Becca Van Fleet, Eaton; Carol VanLoon, Dover; Bonnie Violet, Limerick, ME; Sandra Wadlington, Bradford; Carol Walker-Morin, Nottingham; Sarah Warren, Jefferson; Nathan Webb, Bethel, VT; Paulette Werger, Hanover; and Tom White, Northfield, MA.

The “League of N.H. Craftsmen: 25th Biennial Members’ Juried Exhibition” lead sponsor is Swenson Granite, with additional program sponsorship by Amica Insurance, Hannaford Supermarkets, Ocean National Bank, and Sullivan Creative.

Ceramics by Edwin and Mary Scheier: The Durham Years

A third exhibition, “Ceramics by Edwin and Mary Scheier: The Durham Years,” spotlights two consummate potters who were important figures in the early development of both the League of N.H. Craftsmen and the University of New Hampshire’s Department of the Arts. From 1940 to 1960, Edwin Scheier taught ceramics at UNH, while his wife Mary served as artist-in-residence, producing hundreds of works for the League of N.H. Craftsmen and helping Ed in the classroom when needed. With limited resources, the Scheiers worked tirelessly to develop a strong and cohesive arts curriculum at the University, while also working with the League at annual craft fairs and shows to inspire an appreciation for fine handcrafts among residents of New Hampshire. Focusing on the University’s collection of Scheier works, this exhibition is presented in memory of Mary Scheier, who recently passed away at the age of 99. Guest curator for the Scheier exhibition is Elizabeth Lapan of Londonderry, N.H., a junior at UNH pursuing a dual major in business administration and art history.



The Art Gallery is the 2007 recipient of “New Hampshire Magazine’s” “Best of New Hampshire – Hidden Treasure” award.

Exhibitions and programs are 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, UNH, Durham

September 12: Film: “A League of Our Own: New Hampshire and the American Craft Movement” The history and culture of the League of NH Craftsmen and its influence on the national craft community is presented. (color, 58 min)

September 19: Gallery Talk: Exhibiting faculty artists Rebecca Litt, Shiao-Ping Wang, and Leah Woods discuss their work, techniques, and influences.

September 26: Gallery Talk: Beth Ann Gerstein, executive director of The Society of Arts and Crafts, Boston, and juror of awards for the “League of N.H. Craftsmen: 25th Biennial Members’ Juried Exhibition,” discusses her choices for awards and presents her views on the current state of the crafts community.

October 3: Slide Lecture: Michael Komanecky, chief curator, The Farnsworth Art Museum and Wyeth Center, discusses the ceramics of Edwin and Mary Scheier.

October 10: Gallery Talk/Discussion: Exhibiting League of New Hampshire members, including Sharon Dugan (basketry), discuss their work, techniques, and the challenges facing professional craftspeople.

October 17: Gallery Talk/Discussion: Exhibiting League of New Hampshire members Maureen Mills (ceramics), Paulette Werger (jewelry/metal), and Wen Redmond (fiber), discuss their work, techniques, and the challenges facing professional craftspeople.

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.

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 during exhibition changes.

Editors: The following high-resolution photos of works in the exhibition are available for download:

Selected images from the “Art Faculty Review: Rebecca Litt, Shiao-Ping Wang, and Leah Woods” include:



Rebecca Litt, *Commuters*, 2007, oil on canvas, 60” x 94”

http://www.unh.edu/art-gallery/images/Faculty_2007/Rebecca_Litt_Commuters.jpg



Shiao-Ping Wang, *In the Clouds*, 2007, acrylic on board, 11" x 14"
http://www.unh.edu/art-gallery/images/Faculty_2007/Shiao-Ping_Wang_In_the_Clouds.jpg



Leah Woods, *Vanity with Chair* (front view), 2007, walnut, Australian walnut, brass, African satinwood
http://www.unh.edu/art-gallery/images/Faculty_2007/Leah_Woods_Vanity_with_Chair.jpg

Selected images from the "League of N.H. Craftsmen: 25th Biennial Members' Juried Exhibition" include:



Glen MacInnis, *Wall Snapper*, stoneware, 30" x 28" x 6"
http://www.unh.edu/art-gallery/images/League/Glen_MacInnis_Wall_Snapper.jpg



Betsy Sterling Benjamin, *Blue Lotus of Lumbini* (detail), silk, 42.5" x 30"
http://www.unh.edu/art-gallery/images/League/Betsy_Sterling_Benjamin_Blue_Lotus_of_Lumbini.jpg



Carol VanLoon, *Heidelberg*, silver gelatin print, 16" x 20"
http://www.unh.edu/art-gallery/images/League/Carol_VanLoon_Heidelberg.jpg



Karen Orsillo, *Triangle Jar*, porcelain, 5" x 2.75" x 2.75"
http://www.unh.edu/art-gallery/images/League/Karen_Orsillo_Triangle_Jar.jpg



Megan Bogonovich, *Pink Vine*, ceramic, 2" x 12" x 16"
http://www.unh.edu/art-gallery/images/League/Megan_Bogonovich_Pink_Vine.jpg



Teresa Taylor, *Gourd Teapot*, stoneware, 12" x 8"
http://www.unh.edu/art-gallery/images/League/Teresa_Taylor_Gourd_Teapot.jpg



Barbara Smith McLaughlin, *Untitled*, sterling silver, bronze, agua nueva and coyamito agate beads, 22” long
http://www.unh.edu/art-gallery/images/League/Barbara_Smith_McLaughlin_Untitled.jpg



Adele Sanborn, *Hope is the Thing*, mixed media, 18” x 12” x 4”
http://www.unh.edu/art-gallery/images/League/Adele_Sanborn_Hope_is_the_Thing.jpg

Selected images from “Ceramics by Edwin and Mary Scheier: The Durham Years” include:



Edwin Scheier, *Plate*, mid 20th-c., ceramics, The Art Gallery, UNH, David Campbell Memorial Collection, gift of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Scheier
<http://www.unh.edu/art-gallery/images/Scheier/Plate.jpg>