EXHIBITION FACT SHEET

Title: 3rd Rochester Biennial

When: July 13–September 14, 2008

Description: Summers at the Memorial Art Gallery are dedicated to the art of upstate New York. Like the Rochester-Finger Lakes Exhibition, with which it alternates, the Rochester Biennial showcases artists who live and work in our region. Unlike the juried Finger Lakes, however, the Biennial is an invitational.

Artists: Ronald Gonzalez of Johnson City (mixed media sculpture), Susan Lakin of Rochester (photographs), Sue Huggins Leopard of Rochester (artist’s books), Todd McGrain of Ovid (bronze sculpture and giclée prints), Juan Perdiguero of Oswego (drawings) and Melissa Sarat of Preble (oil paintings). As in 2006, one artist (Lakin) was selected on the strength of her work in last year’s Rochester-Finger Lakes Exhibition.

Credits: Underwritten by the Elaine P. and Richard U. Wilson Foundation and by gifts in memory of Diane Holahan Grosso

Special events: These include an Exhibition Party (July 12) and lectures by four of the artists (July 17 & 24 and September 4 & 11). For details, see attached release.

Meet the Artist Cell Phone Tours: Use your cell phone to hear all six artists talk about their work. The tour is free but regular cell phone charges apply. Transcripts of this OnCell audiotour are also available on the web at http://mag.rochester.edu.

Hours: Wednesday–Sunday 11 am–5 pm and Thursday until 9 pm. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays.

Admission: $10; college students with ID and senior citizens, $6; children 6–18, $4. Always free to members, UR students, and children 5 and under. Reduced general admission, $6, Thursdays from 5–9, made possible by ExxonMobil Chemical Company, Thomson West and Monroe County.

Press contacts: Shirley Wersinger, 585.256.8935 / swersinger@mag.rochester.edu Larissa Masny, 585.256.8934 / lmasny@mag.rochester.edu http://mag.rochester.edu
June 17, 2008

3RD ROCHESTER BIENNIAL CELEBRATES REGIONAL ART
Exhibition opens July 13 at Rochester’s Memorial Art Gallery

ROCHESTER, NY — Summers at the Memorial Art Gallery are dedicated to the art of upstate New York. Like the Rochester-Finger Lakes Exhibition, with which it alternates, the Rochester Biennial showcases artists who live and work in our region. Unlike the juried Finger Lakes, however, the Biennial is an invitational.

The 3rd Rochester Biennial opens July 13, 2008 and remains on view through September 14. This year, the Gallery’s director, director of exhibitions and curator of education have invited six exceptional artists to participate—Ronald Gonzalez of Johnson City (mixed media sculpture), Susan Lakin of Rochester (photographs), Sue Huggins Leopard of Rochester (artist’s books), Todd McGrain of Ovid (bronze sculpture and giclée prints), Juan Perdiguero of Oswego (drawings) and Melissa Sarat of Preble (oil paintings). As in 2006, one artist (Lakin) was selected was selected on the strength of her work in last year’s Rochester-Finger Lakes Exhibition.

“We aimed for variety, but insisted on quality,” says director of exhibitions Marie Via. “The thread that connects all six is commitment to excellence.”

This exhibition is underwritten by the Elaine P. and Richard U. Wilson Foundation and by gifts in memory of Diane Holahan Grosso.

ARTIST PROFILES

Ronald Gonzalez
Johnson City
As a young boy, Ronald Gonzalez transformed dead insects, bottlecaps, sticks and wire into toys and miniature worlds. Today, he transforms found objects into surreal figures that inhabit a universe at once playful and grotesque. Eroded and patinated by the passage of time, these recent works remind us of our own mutability and mortality. Gonzalez is professor of sculpture at Binghamton University, his alma mater.

Pictured: Found Heads (detail) (2006–08)

Susan Lakin
Rochester
Susan Lakin’s Television Series continues a tradition of social documentation that began with the invention of the daguerrotype in the 19th century and drew such 20th-century photographers as Bill Owens to make portraits of ordinary Americans. She is interested in how technology lets us blur the line between the real and the simulated, the public sphere and the private. Lakin is associate professor of photography and digital imaging at RIT.

Artist lecture Thursday, July 24, 11 am.

Pictured: Elizabeth and Don (2006–07)
Sue Huggins Leopard  
Rochester  
Sue Leopard experiments with different formats, media and binding processes to create artist’s books that are narrative yet mysterious. Distinguished by an extraordinary sense of color, her works have their source in dreams, found objects, old family photographs, lines of verse by Emily Dickinson—“anything,” writes the artist, “that moves through my consciousness and decides to stay awhile and take shape.”

Pictured: Green (2007)

Todd McGrain  
Ovid  
Passionately committed to habitat preservation, sculptor Todd McGrain has created the Lost Bird Project to immortalize five North American birds driven to extinction in modern times. The massive bronze forms are “melancholy, yet affirming; the smooth surface, like a stone polished from touch, conjures the effect of memory and time.” An associate professor at Cornell University, McGrain’s awards include a Guggenheim Fellowship.

Artist lecture Thursday, July 17, 11 am.

Pictured: Great Auk, driven to extinction, 1844 (2007–08)

Juan Perdiguero  
Oswego  
Juan Perdiguero creates meticulous chiaroscuro portraits of magnificent animals bred for competition but kept in relative confinement, prompting metaphorical comparisons to the human race. He blurs the boundaries between painting, drawing and photography by selectively exposing sheets of photo paper and manipulating ink, asphaltum and linseed oil into freehand renderings. A native of Spain, Perdiguero teaches at SUNY-Oswego. Artist lecture Thursday, September 4, 11 am.


Melissa Sarat  
Preble  
Raised on the grounds of a Louisiana mental hospital, Melissa Sarat had contact not only with patients but also the rich flora and fauna of the South. Today, her highly detailed paintings, infused with what she calls the “jambalaya of symbolic imagery,” explore universal themes of excess, circumstance, life choices, spirit guides, environmental disasters, maternity, family and death. Sarat obsesses over her paintings, spending months or even years on one canvas. Artist lecture Thursday, September 11, 11 am.

Pictured: Ritrina (2005–07)

Press contacts:  
Shirley Wersinger, 585.256.8935 / swersinger@mag.rochester.edu  
Larissa Masny, 585.256.8934 / lmasny@mag.rochester.edu

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Exhibition Party

Saturday, July 12, 8–11 pm (Patrons 5–7 pm)
MAG supporter members and above free; associate members $10; non-members and guests $17; advance tickets required*

Party sponsored by the Democrat and Chronicle and Time Warner Cable

Celebrate the art of upstate New York and enjoy live music and entertainment throughout the Gallery:
- On the front lawn, dance or just listen to sultry R&B and classic Motown by the Blue Avengers.
- In the Vanden Brul Pavilion, tap your toes to the sounds of the Monroe County Bluegrass Ramblers.
- In the Auditorium, sit back and be mesmerized by the Airplay Comedy Juggling Show.
- In the Fountain Court, listen to offbeat arrangements by On Call, official a cappella group of UR’s School of Medicine and Dentistry.
- Help yourself to munchies, or purchase cocktails, coffee and decadent desserts served by our own Cutler’s Restaurant. Or enjoy dinner at Cutlers, serving from 5 to 8 pm (reservations suggested, 473.6380).

* For recorded information call 585.276.8901. Tickets for nonmembers only are also available at Wegmans Customer Service Counters (surcharge applies) or Parkleigh.

“Art at 11” Artist Lectures

Thursdays, 11 am, Auditorium
Free with Gallery admission

Hear a lecture by four of this year’s Biennial artists.
July 17: Todd McGrain
July 24: Susan Lakin
September 4: Juan Perdiguero
September 11: Melissa Sarat

Guided Exhibition Tours

Sunday, July 13 (opening day), 1 pm
Friday, September 12, 2 pm
Sunday, September 14, 1 pm
Free with Gallery admission

June 17, 2008

Contact: Shirley Wersinger, 585.256.8932 / swersinger@mag.rochester.edu
Larissa Masny, 585.256.8934 / lmasny@mag.rochester.edu
## CHECKLIST
### 3rd Rochester Biennial

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Artist</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Medium</th>
<th>Edition/Remarks</th>
<th>Collection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RONALD GONZALEZ</td>
<td><em>Found Heads</em>, 2008</td>
<td>Mixed media installation</td>
<td></td>
<td>Collection of the artist</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUSAN LAKIN</td>
<td><em>Alexander, Brian, Tracy, &amp; Ethan</em>, 2006–07</td>
<td>Durst Lambda print</td>
<td></td>
<td>Collection of the artist</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Brenda &amp; Al</em>, 2006–07</td>
<td>Durst Lambda print</td>
<td></td>
<td>Collection of the artist</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>David</em>, 2007–08</td>
<td>Durst Lambda print</td>
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<td>Collection of the artist</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Donna &amp; Bosco</em>, 2006–07</td>
<td>Durst Lambda print</td>
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<td>Collection of the artist</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Elizabeth &amp; Don</em>, 2006–07</td>
<td>Durst Lambda print</td>
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<td>Collection of the artist</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Joyce</em>, 2006–07</td>
<td>Durst Lambda print</td>
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<td>Collection of the artist</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Lisa</em>, 2007–08</td>
<td>Durst Lambda print</td>
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<td>Collection of the artist</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Mario, Heidi, &amp; Marshall</em>, 2005–07</td>
<td>Durst Lambda print</td>
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<td>Collection of the artist</td>
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<td><em>Marky &amp; Duffy</em>, 2007–08</td>
<td>Durst Lambda print</td>
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<td>Collection of the artist</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Richard &amp; Jennifer</em>, 2006–07</td>
<td>Durst Lambda print</td>
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<td>Collection of the artist</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Shirley &amp; Ken</em>, 2006–07</td>
<td>Durst Lambda print</td>
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<td>Collection of the artist</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Tom, Jane, Catherine, Abraham, &amp; May</em>, 2005–07</td>
<td>Durst Lambda print</td>
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<td>Collection of the artist</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>SUE HUGGINS LEOPARD</em></td>
<td><em>American Dreamer/Grammy</em>, 2006–07 Mixed media collage with etching</td>
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<td>Collection of the artist</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Artists’ Book</em>, 2008</td>
<td>Etchings and letterpress mounted on Belgian flax CAVE paper, case of antique marbled paper with leather spine</td>
<td>Poem by Rainer Maria Rilke</td>
<td>Edition of 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Crossing the River</em>, 2003–04</td>
<td>Linocut on Japanese paper, hand painted in gouache and watercolor</td>
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<td>Collection of the artist</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Fading</em>, 2008</td>
<td>Monoprint with ballpoint pen additions</td>
<td></td>
<td>Collection of the artist</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Furia</em>, 2004–06</td>
<td>Linocut on Unryu paper, hand painted in gouache and watercolor</td>
<td>Edition of 5 sets</td>
<td>Collection of the artist</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Green</em>, 2007</td>
<td>Collaged etchings, gouache, letterpress, and various handmade papers, piano hinge binding, and clamshell box of CAVE paper</td>
<td>Edition of 3</td>
<td>Collection of the artist</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Mountains &amp; Valleys</em>, 2006–07</td>
<td>Etchings on Japanese papers mounted on Nepalese paper</td>
<td></td>
<td>Collection of the artist</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Past Surmise</em>, 2006–08</td>
<td>Etchings with letterpress text on Magnani Pescia paper</td>
<td>Poems by Emily Dickinson</td>
<td>Edition of 20 sets</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Resurgo</em>, 2005</td>
<td>Inkjet prints from the original monotypes mounted on Hahnemühle paper</td>
<td>Edition of 9</td>
<td>Collection of the artist</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Stealing Baby</em>, 2005</td>
<td>Inkjet print on Kaji paper from the original linocut with letterpress text and handstamps</td>
<td>Edition of 50</td>
<td>Collection of the artist</td>
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</tbody>
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continued…
TODD MCGRAIN

Carolina Parakeet Memorial, 2003–08
Bronze
Private collection

Carolina Parakeet, driven to extinction 1918, 2007–08
Giclée print
Private collection

Great Auk Memorial, 2003–08
Bronze
Private collection

Great Auk, driven to extinction 1844, 2007–08
Giclée print
Private collection

Heath Hen Memorial, 2003–08
Bronze
Private collection

Heath Hen, driven to extinction 1932, 2007–08
Giclée print
Private collection

Labrador Duck Memorial, 2003–08
Bronze
Private collection

Labrador Duck, driven to extinction 1844, 2007–08
Giclée print
Private collection

Passenger Pigeon Memorial, 2003–08
Bronze
Private collection

Passenger Pigeon, driven to extinction 1914, 2007–08
Giclée print
Private collection

JUAN PERDIGUERO

Galgo Lluvia Siena, 2007
Mixed media on photo emulsion
Courtesy of Ghostprint Gallery, Richmond, VA

Galgo Moteado 2, 2007
Mixed media on photo emulsion
Courtesy of Ghostprint Gallery, Richmond, VA

Galgo Negro Cruzado, 2006
Mixed media on photo emulsion
Courtesy of Ghostprint Gallery, Richmond, VA

Perro Gris Blanco, 2007
Mixed media on photo emulsion
Collection of the artist

Perro Gris Frio
Mixed media on photo emulsion
Collection of the artist

Perro Gris Lluvia, 2007
Mixed media on photo emulsion
Collection of the artist

Perro Negro, 2006
Mixed media on photo emulsion
Collection of the artist

MELISSA SARAT

Admonishing the Beast, 1996–2003
Oil on canvas
Collection of the artist

Evangeline, 2000–05
Oil on canvas
Collection of the artist

Fetus Fibonacci, 2002–05
Oil on canvas
Private collection

Mid-Summer, 2003–06
Oil on canvas
Collection of Shlomo and Amy Gortler

Mother Möbius, 2004–06
Oil on canvas
Private collection

Pentecost, 1997–2004
Oil on canvas
Collection of the artist

Ritrina, 2005–07
Oil on canvas
Collection of the artist

St. Francis, 2000–06
Oil on canvas
Collection of the artist

Talking Heads, 2005–08
Oil on canvas
Collection of the artist
UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS AT THE MEMORIAL ART GALLERY

October 5, 2008–January 4, 2009

Tradition in Transition: Russian Icons in the Age of the Romanovs

The 43 icons in this exhibition span 300 years of Romanov rule in Russia (1613–1918). These sacred images range from humble, roughly-painted wooden icons from the peasant class to luxurious examples made of ivory or painted enamels and housed in gold or silver covers embellished with pearls and precious jewels. On tour for the first time, they come from three major private collections, including that of heiress Marjorie Merriweather Post. In Rochester, they are accompanied by Subverting the Sacred: The Face of Lenin, a small exhibition of paintings and artifacts from the David M. Rittenhouse collection that demonstrate how the image of Lenin was used in Russia after 1917 to displace religious icons in both public and private settings.

Organized by Hillwood Museum & Gardens, Washington, DC. Tour by International Arts & Artists, Washington, DC.

Pictured: Iverskaia Mother of God (ca. 1897–1900). Collection of Hillwood Museum & Gardens, Bequest of Marjorie Merriweather Post

January 25–March 29, 2009

Leaded: The Materiality and Metamorphosis of Graphite

The title refers to the commonplace but erroneous labeling of the material inside that most basic drawing tool, a pencil. Although they do work with graphite, the 15 contemporary artists represented in this exhibition are often “drawing” only in the loosest sense of the word. Some build up layers to create an image, others are more interested in what remains after they obliterate their medium, and several even treat graphite as a sculptural entity. Forty intriguing works guide visitors on an unexpected journey beyond the act of mark-making.

Developed by the University of Richmond Museums, VA, and organized for tour by International Arts and Artists, Washington, DC.

April 19–June 28, 2009

GlassWear

Innovative contemporary jewelry by 60 leading artists from the US, Germany, Italy, UK, Japan, and South Africa exploits the properties of glass—transparency, fluidity, sharpness, fragility and reflection. In Rochester, the exhibition is accompanied by A Unity of Opposites: Recent Work by Michael Taylor, a companion show organized by MAG.

Organized by the Museum of Arts & Design (NYC) and Schmuckmuseum Pforzheim (Germany). A Unity of Opposites sponsored in part by the Art Alliance for Contemporary Glass.
A NOTE ON FUNDING

To: Members of the press

From: Shirley Wersinger and Larissa Masny
Memorial Art Gallery public relations office

Subject: Funding for the 3rd Rochester Biennial

Exhibitions of this magnitude are expensive to organize. Indeed, they could not be offered to the community without broad support from private and public agencies. We ask for your help in giving well-deserved public recognition to these generous sponsors.

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The exhibition party is sponsored by the Democrat and Chronicle and Time Warner Cable.