

FRANK in Chapel Hill, NC, Features Exhibit of Narrative Imagery and Works by Barbara Tyroler and Keith Allen

FRANK, the Franklin Street Arts Collective in Chapel Hill, NC, will present, *StoryMakers*, featuring a member and invitational exhibit focusing on narrative imagery, on view from Mar. 8 through Apr. 24, 2011. The exhibition was curated by Jean LeCluyse, B. Michele Maynard, Sudie Rakusin, and Luna Lee Ray all FRANK member artists. The gallery is also featuring works by Barbara Tyroler and Keith Allen through Mar. 22, 2011. A reception will be held on Mar. 11, from 7-9pm.



Images from postcard promoting *StoryMakers*

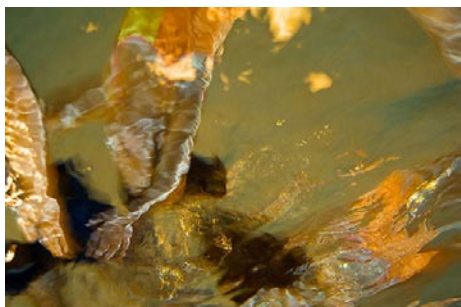
Artists have always told stories with pictures, whether drawing inside of a cave, illuminating one of the world's great books, or painting on the ceilings and walls of a cathedral or temple. Narrative art engages our curiosity and imagination when a common thread is stitched between the viewer and the image. The common thread can be a memory, a poem, a dream or childhood fantasy to list only a few.

The show will highlight the work of invited artists Aggie Zed, Quentin Warshauer, Kirsten Stingle, Charlotte Foust, Patrick Fitzgerald, Henryk Fantazos, and Nancy Baker. Participating FRANK artists will be Luna Lee Ray, Sudie Rakusin, Michele Maynard, Jean LeCluyse, Jane Filer, and Carmen Elliot.

The 'StoryMakers' invite you to step into their stories through their images.

With an MFA in digital art and an M.Ed. in education and community, Barbara Tyroler served on the University of Maryland art department teaching staff offering courses in lens based critical theory, wet darkroom, and digital print-making before returning to her hometown, Chapel Hill. As founder and director of the University of Maryland Photographic Arts Outreach Program, and the Family Arts Enrichment and Leadership programs, Tyroler wrote over 25 visual arts and community education grants to provide multicultural arts-in-education projects integrating fine art and documentary photography.

Tyroler is a founding advisory member of fotoweekdc, a week-long photographic arts festival collaboration with the Corcoran, and the co-founder of the Metro area Digital Ladies support group for professional women photographers.



Work by Barbara Tyroler

Tyroler's commercial photography emphasizes the creative and journalistic approach. She was voted among the best wedding photographers in the DC metro area by the *Washingtonian* magazine for the past 10 years before returning home to Chapel Hill. She currently teaches at the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke.

Tyroler has been photographing bodies in water since the early 80's when she began experimenting with infrared black and white film. Several years ago through a series of collaborative portrait-making sessions when her father was ill and approaching 80, she encouraged him to explore art during his aquatic rehabilitation at the Duke Health and Fitness Center. Together they made portraits of each other under water, using the computer to share images and poetic thoughts about health, the fragile body, and the soothing aspects of water. Issues relating to truth-telling and the camera's capacity for illusion, power, and gift-giving were explored as well.

Tyroler produces site-specific portraiture for corporations, universities, and health-oriented non-profits while creating abstracted figurative water portraiture for exhibition, individual clients, and families. As an educator, she brings this process to her university classrooms and conducts workshops and portrait-making experiences in community pools, nursing homes and special education programs with children.

Keith Allen has been designing and making furniture for more than 40 years. It all began in graduate school, when he needed a desk for the corner of an oddly configured dorm room, and built one using his trusty saber saw and electric drill and a couple of sheets of birch plywood. Later, when he got his first real job teaching mathematics at UNC Charlotte, he filled his apartment with a vast array of furniture made of plywood, foam rubber, naugahyde, etc. Still later, teaching math and computer science at UNC Asheville, he bought some real woodworking tools and renovated a house he had bought.



Work by Keith Allen

By the time Allen had morphed from mathematician into computer scientist and was teaching computer science at Clemson University in SC, he managed to set up a woodworking shop in a one-car garage, and spent most weekends there teaching himself to build "real" furniture. Moving to Orange County in 1988, leaving math and computer science behind, he began making and selling furniture as Allenwood, from a 750 square foot shop that he built starting from a sturdy open tractor shed, a metal roof on telephone poles.

Through the years, Allen's furniture has evolved, and he still experiments with new ideas. He says, "I like natural materials, including natural edges and defects. I also like geometric forms, no doubt a throwback to my earlier years as a topologist. Topology is, after all, a kind of geometry. In my furniture, I often find myself contrasting natural aspects of material with geometrically motivated designs or architectures. My strongest external influences have come from the work of George Nakashima, an American architect-turned-furniture-maker, and Gerrit Rietveld, an early 20th century Dutch cabinet-maker-turned-architect. Nakashima's work hinged on letting natural material speak for itself. Rietveld's work

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was starkly geometric and (consistent with the ideas of other members of the De Stijl movement, of which he was a founding member along with the painter Mondrian)

often featured primary colors."

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call 919/636-4135 or visit (www.frankisart.com).

North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh, NC, Features Works by American Artists

The North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh, NC, will present the exhibit, *30 Americans*, on view in the Museum's Meymandi Exhibition Gallery, from Mar. 19 through Sept. 4, 2011.

30 Americans highlights the work of 31 contemporary African American artists in an exhibition organized by and drawn from the Rubell Family Collection in Miami, FL. The exhibit consists of 70 works of art and includes painting, drawing, photography, video, sculpture, and mixed-media installations.

The exhibition features both established and emerging artists and illustrates how a previous generation of African American artists has influenced the current generation. The exhibition focuses on artists who explore similar themes and subject matter in their work, primarily issues of race, gender, identity, history, and popular culture.

The Rubell family describes the collection and the impetus for this exhibition as follows: "Since we started collecting in the 1960s, we have always collected African American artists as a part of our broader mission to collect the most interesting art of our time. Approximately three years ago, we found there was a critical mass of emerging African American artists, and began the process of understanding what seemed to be a new movement. When we asked these artists about their influences, we heard some of the same names over and over: Robert Colescott, Renée Green, David Hammons, Barkley Hendricks, Kerry James Marshall, Gary Simmons, Lorna Simpson, Kara Walker, and Carrie Mae Weems."



Work by Rashid Johnson

"As the show evolved, we decided to call it *30 Americans*. 'Americans,' rather than 'African Americans' or 'Black Americans,' because nationality is a statement of fact, while racial identity is a question each artist answers in his or her own way, or not at all. And the number 30 because we acknowledge, even as it is happening, that this show does not include everyone who could be in it. The truth is, because we do collect right up to the last minute before a show, there are actually 31 artists in *30 Americans*."

The exhibition is part of the NCMA's ongoing commitment to present work by internationally recognized contemporary artists and to highlight the variety and historical depth of art and artists from diverse backgrounds.

Organized by the Rubell Family Collection, Miami. In Raleigh support is provided by the North Carolina Museum of Art Friends of African and African American Art. This exhibition is made possible, in part, by the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, the North Carolina Museum of Art Foundation, Inc., and the William R. Kenan Jr. Endowment for Educational Exhibitions.

The North Carolina Museum of Art houses an excellent permanent collection. Since the initial acquisition in 1947 of 139 works of European and American art, purchased with a \$1 million appropriation of state funds, the collection of the North Carolina Museum of Art has grown to include major holdings in European painting from the Renaissance to the 19th century (enhanced in 1960 by an extraordinary gift from the Samuel H. Kress Foundation of 75 works dating primarily from the Italian Renaissance and baroque periods), Egyptian funerary art, sculpture and vase painting from ancient Greece and Rome, American art of the 18th through 20th centuries, and international contemporary art. Other strengths include African, ancient American, pre-Columbian, and Oceanic art, and Jewish ceremonial objects.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 919/839-6262 or visit (<http://ncartmuseum.org>).



Work by Nick Cave

Artists featured in the exhibition include: Nina Chanel Abney, John Bankston, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Mark Bradford, Iona Rozeal Brown, Nick Cave, Robert Colescott, Noah Davis, Leonardo Drew, Renée Green, David Hammons, Barkley L. Hendricks, Rashid Johnson, Glenn Ligon, Kalup Linzy, Kerry James Marshall, Rodney McMillian, Wangechi Mutu, William Pope.L, Gary Simmons, Xaviera Simmons, Lorna Simpson, Shinique Smith, Jeff Sonhouse, Henry Taylor, Hank Willis Thomas, Mickalene Thomas, Kara Walker, Carrie Mae Weems, Kehinde Wiley, and Purvis Young.



Work by Gary Simmons

The Rubell Family Collection is an internationally renowned collection of contemporary art that was established by Don and Mera Rubell in 1964. Jason and Jennifer Rubell now assist their parents in building the collection with works that range in date from the 1960s to the present.