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Mint Museum Uptown in Charlotte, NC, Features Works by Gary Lee Noffke

The Mint Museum Uptown in Charlotte, NC, will present the exhibit, *Attitude and Alchemy: The Metalwork of Gary Lee Noffke*, on view in the Gorelick Gallery, from Apr. 2 through Sept. 11, 2011.



Work by Gary Lee Noffke

Gary Lee Noffke has been described as "a pacesetter" and the "ultimate maverick." For nearly 50 years, he has consistently and simultaneously created jewelry, hollowware, and flatware, passionately exploring surface, form, and function. Beginning in the 1970s, Noffke's work gained national attention. A metalsmith's metalsmith known for his graffiti-like surface treatment, Noffke challenged metalworking traditions with his expressive spontaneous approach and sense of humor. Over the course of his career, he has received numerous accolades particularly for his technical prowess, hot forging research, the development of numerous alloys, and his ability to embrace and challenge tradition.

Attitude and Alchemy: The Metalwork of Gary Lee Noffke is the first museum-organized project about this consummate

artist in almost 20 years. Dating from the 1960s to present day, the exhibition includes approximately 124 examples of his silver and gold hollowware, flatware, and jewelry in addition to a selection of objects forged in steel. This retrospective will not only capture Noffke's distinctive personality, but also trace the evolution of his style, methodology, and impact on the field. From striking jewelry inspired by ancient aesthetics to exquisite goblets rich with surface decoration, these works will illustrate why Noffke is considered one of the foremost metalsmiths in the United States.

The Mint Museum Uptown is also showing the exhibit, *New Visions: Contemporary Masterworks from the Bank of America Collection*, on view through Apr. 17, 2011. The Mint Museum and Bank of America will collaborate to present an exhibition comprising over 60 works from the bank's Art Collection. Widely regarded as one of the world's finest corporate art collections, the Bank of America Collection is noted for its high quality, stylistic diversity, historical depth and attention to regional identity, featuring works by Milton Avery, Jennifer Bartlett, Roger Brown, John Chamberlain, Janet Fish, Helen Frankenthaler, Sam Gilliam, John Marin, Elizabeth Murray, Louise Nevelson, Jules Olitski, Edward Ruscha, Miriam Schapiro and Frank Stella, among others.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 704/337-2000 or visit (www.mintmuseum.org).

McColl Center for Visual Art in Charlotte, NC, Offers Works by Jeff Schmuki and Heather Lewis

The McColl Center for Visual Art in Charlotte, NC, will present the exhibit, *The Green Shadow*, featuring works by Jeff Schmuki and Heather Lewis, on view from Apr. 15 through Aug. 19, 2011. An opening reception will be held on Apr. 15, from 6-9pm and a closing reception will be held on Aug. 18, from 6-9pm.

Heather Lewis offered the following statement about her work: "Mass production is a familiar concept - most of my possessions are made in factories. Mass production relies on deskilling, or removing skill from production processes, often achieved by using templates and stencils."

"Using stenciling and simple technology within a fine art value system separates the idea of deskilling from its commercial framework, and at the same time opens up traditional definitions of drawing for re-evaluation," adds Lewis. "For example, a shadow could be defined as a drawing according to traditional criteria: it accurately translates a 3D situation into 2D format consistent with a single viewpoint, incorporating edges, value and perspective. However, considering a shadow as a drawing brings a raft of new possibilities. Unlike a traditional drawing a shadow is formed automatically, without skill, relying on the physics of light and the shape of the object. A shadow can be created or destroyed instantly, leaving no trace; it can be hugely enlarged without extra materials; and it engages with the surface that displays it, taking drawing off its paper and into new situations. A shadow is a completely accurate representation of reality but it is not an illusion of reality, nor even sometimes a recognizable image. A shadow occurs in real time, not the past, and can be controlled via its the energy

source."

Jeff Schmuki offered the following statement about his work: "My approach combines environmental, social, economic, and aesthetic concerns with a nomadic sensibility developed after Hurricane Katrina. These whimsical yet serious functional sculptures/plant growth systems re-purposed from mass-produced commercial products, which often begin as a response to a specific place, are fashioned to mutate and adapt to new situations and environments along the way. In combining living organic elements and art, nature is embellished in a highly personal way inviting the viewer to experience the natural life cycle of each work."

"The ephemeral quality or life cycle of each work echoes the reality of our own fragility and non-permanence," adds Schmuki. "My work also functions as an autobiographical garden recreating a lost landscape, a reinvented awareness of identity, and an expansion of possibilities. Realizing my work is directly linked to the community, I carry out projects that include members of the Charlotte area and McColl audience. My creative process speaks to the profound need for an alternative yet collaborative means of addressing the pressing social and environmental issues that are specific to the urban environment. Although the consequences of inefficient and excessive consumption are now being realized worldwide, I believe the regenerative combination of art and horticulture can foster discussions that promote a more accountable use of our limited natural resources."

For further info check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call 704/332-5535 or visit (<http://www.mccollcenter.org/>)

The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and copy-ready ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This would be Apr. 24th for the May 2011 issue and May 24 for the June 2011 issue. After that, it's too late unless your exhibit runs into the next month. But don't wait for the last minute - send your info now.

You can contact us by calling 843/825-3408 or by e-mail at - info@carolinaarts.com