EXHIBITION AT UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND’S STAMP GALLERY FEATURES LATEST CONTEMPORARY ART ACQUISITIONS

Works by Derrick Adams, Wafaa Bilal, Titus Kaphar, Elle Pérez, John Paradiso, Ellington Robinson
Enter Collection through Student-Led Contemporary Art Purchasing Program
Free Opening Reception and Extended Hours September 25, 6–10 pm

College Park, MD—This fall the Stamp Gallery at the University of Maryland, College Park, presents New Arrivals 2015: Collecting Contemporary Art at the University of Maryland. On view September 21 through December 18, 2015, the exhibition features thirteen artworks by six emerging and mid-career artists. Nearly all completed within the last two years, these works explore intersecting contemporary experiences of race, gender, sexual orientation, global conflict, and personal identity. Spanning photography, printmaking, drawing, sculpture, and multimedia construction, they incorporate materials as diverse as gold leaf, asphalt paper, shrink wrap, crude oil, and repurposed furniture.

Highlights include:

- Baltimore-born, New York-based artist Derrick Adams’s Game Changing, a suite of four richly textured screenprints with gold leaf that examines themes of royalty and African-American experience by transforming the king of hearts, queen of clubs, jack of diamonds, and ace of spades found in a traditional deck of playing cards into precious objects.

- A photograph from Iraqi-born, New York-based artist Wafaa Bilal’s The Ashes Series, initiated in 2003 when the artist began collecting press images of private spaces destroyed in the Iraq War. These he reconstructed by hand as miniature, three-dimensional models, then he dusted them with ashes and translated the results into luminous photographs.

- Two sculptures from Bilal’s Lovely Pink series, in which the artist reflects on recent destruction by ISIS of ancient art and artifacts by manipulating miniature reproductions of some of the most
recognizable sculptures in Western art history—in this case, Michelangelo’s *David* (1501–1504) and Cellini’s *Perseus with the Head of Medusa* (c. 1554)—covering them in heated industrial shrink wrap and petroleum-based enamel paint.

- A large-scale drawing related to Titus Kaphar’s *The Jerome Project*, for which Kaphar sketched in chalk the faces of Sean Bell, Michael Brown, and Eric Garner—three black men tragically killed by law enforcement in the United States—layering them one on top of the other so that they blur and blend on a ground of asphalt paper.

- DC-based artist John Paradiso’s *Fairy Collage Quilt*, which explores experiences of “growing old as a gay man” by combining erotic male figures and floral motifs in a gridded, mixed-media collage that incorporates fabrics and traditionally “feminine” techniques of quilting.

- Three photographs from Elle Pérez’s *The Outliers series*, a project for which the Maryland Institute College of Art-graduate traveled across the United States considering notions of gender and photographing individuals who identify as genderqueer and their communities.

- DC-based artist Ellington Robinson’s *Oath of the Imperialists*, a mixed-media construction that features an up-ended tabletop covered with map-like diagrams and punctured with repurposed carving knives as if laying claim to an imagined geography.

After the exhibition closes, the artworks will be installed in the study spaces, lounges, and corridors of the Adele H. Stamp Student Union—Center for Campus Life for the daily study, inspiration, and enjoyment of students, staff, faculty, and visitors.

ABOUT THE CONTEMPORARY ART PURCHASING PROGRAM (CAPP)

Entering its tenth year, the Contemporary Art Purchasing Program (CAPP) empowers students to purchase contemporary artwork on behalf of the University of Maryland. The program operates on a biannual basis. Students of diverse majors are selected to participate through a competitive application process; the 2014–2015 CAPP Committee, for example, comprises six undergraduates and one graduate student from the fields of Art History, Accounting, Communications, Psychology, Studio Art, and Women’s Studies. Together they embark on a rigorous research and training program, including extensive visits to galleries and artists’ studios in Baltimore, New York, and Washington, DC.

Since its inauguration in 2005, the CAPP Collection has grown to encompass 40 works of art by 33 artists. Represented in the collection are works by internationally-recognized artists, including Shimon Attie, Edward Burtynsky, Nikki S. Lee, Dulce Pinzón, Barbara Probst, and Lorna Simpson, some of them graduates of the University of Maryland such as Selin Balci and Jefferson Pinder. The collection includes work by many artists based in the Washington, DC-region, including Hedieh Javanshir Ilchi, Jae Ko, Nate Larson, Linn Meyers, and Maggie Michael.

ABOUT THE STAMP GALLERY

Located on the first floor of the Adele H. Stamp Student Union—Center for Campus Life at the University of Maryland, College Park, The Stamp Gallery is dedicated to exhibiting contemporary art, especially the work of emerging and mid-career artists. The Gallery supports contemporary art that is challenging, academically engaging, and attuned to broad community and social issues. Through meaningful exhibitions and programming, the Gallery offers outside-of-the-classroom experiential learning opportunities. It functions as a laboratory where emerging artists and curators experiment and work through their ideas. The Gallery’s programming aims to emphasize the importance of process to contemporary artistic practice and to provide a forum for dialogue.

FREE and open to the public: Mondays–Thursdays: 10 am–8 pm; Fridays: 10 am–6 pm; Saturdays: 11 am–4 pm; Sundays: Closed. More information: thestamp.umd.edu/stamp_gallery

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