

Arts Scene

Local artists featured in DeCordova Annual Exhibition

The 2008 DeCordova Annual Exhibition at the DeCordova Museum in Lincoln features a diverse selection of artwork created by 12 artists/artist teams. The exhibition will be on view in the museum's galleries through Aug. 17, with an opening reception on May 15 from 6-9 p.m.

Originally titled the Artists/Visions series, the DeCordova Annual has showcased the works of emerging, mid-career, and established artists since 1989. This exhibition emphasizes the quality and variety of artworks rather than any single or overarching theme. Each year the DeCordova Annual seeks to feature a selection of the most interesting and visually eloquent artists working in the New England region, and celebrates the creativity and vitality of our own visual arts community.

The series also reinforces DeCordova's commitment to regional artists, and its leadership position in celebrating contemporary art in New England. The artists for each year's Annual are selected by DeCordova's director and curators and each show is carefully organized to reflect varieties of medium, style, subject, and content. All decisions are made by consensus—all the curators must agree upon on the choice of each artist.

The exhibition is organized by Director of Curatorial Affairs Rachel Rosenfield Lafo, Curator Nick Capasso, Assistant Curator Dina Deitsch, and Koch Curatorial Fellow Kate Dempsey. The 2008 DeCordova Annual Exhibition has been funded by the Deborah A. Hawkins Charitable Trust.

Featured artists/artist teams include: Mitchel K. Ahern of Swampscott, Matt Brackett

of Somerville, Leah Gauthier of Boston, The Institute for Infinitely Small Things of Waltham, Niho Kozuru of Boston, Eva Lee of Ridgefield, Ct., Yana Payusova of Boston, David Prifti of Concord, Kirsten Reynolds of Newmarket, N.H., Mark Schoening of Boston, Vanessa Tropeano of Lexington, and Marguerite White of Newtonville.

Exhibition programs will include several Gallery Talks in which guests will have the opportunity to meet the artists. The talks, which are free with campus admission, will be held on selected Saturdays at 3 p.m. in the third floor lobby. Scheduled talks include: Mark Schoening on May 17, Eva Lee on May 24, David Prifti on May 31, Vanessa Tropeano on June 21, and Matt Brackett on July 19.

Many of the featured artists will also be giving performances. On May 24 and June 15, The Institute for Infinitely Small Things will perform "Everything is in Order" from noon-2 p.m. On June 14, Mitchel Ahern, will give an Artist Talk and performance at 3 p.m. On Aug. 16, Leah Gauthier will give an Artist Talk and performance at 3 p.m.

Several artists will also participate in the Eye Wonder Family Program on Selected Sundays from 1-3 p.m. in the museum galleries.

Eye Wonder focuses on "seeing" and "doing" in art museums and combines careful looking with creative art projects centered on DeCordova's changing exhibitions. Eye Wonder celebrates the uniqueness of contemporary artists and their processes with family-friendly guided tours and hands-on art activities.



Courtesy photo

'Liquid Sunshine' by Niho Kozuru of Boston. Kozuru's cast rubber sculptures are featured in the 2008 DeCordova Annual Exhibition.

This drop-in program is perfect for families with children ages 6 and up and is free with campus admission. The upcoming programs will be centered on the DeCordova Annual Exhibition. Scheduled programs include: Kirsten Reynolds on May 18, Leah Gauthier on June 1, Marguerite White on July 27, and Mark Schoening on Aug. 3.

DeCordova is proud to be a participant in Bank of America's Museums on Us program. Beginning in May, all visitors who present a valid Bank of America ATM, debit or credit

card, along with photo identification will receive free general admission to DeCordova's campus on the first weekend of each month until April 2009. This program excludes special events.

The DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park is located at 51 Sandy Pond Road. Museum hours are Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; sculpture park hours are daily dawn until dusk. For more information, call 781-259-0505 or visit www.decor-dova.org.