

News

University of Richmond Museums

Joel and Lila Harnett Museum of Art • Joel and Lila Harnett Print Study Center

Lora Robins Gallery of Design from Nature

Richmond, Virginia 23173

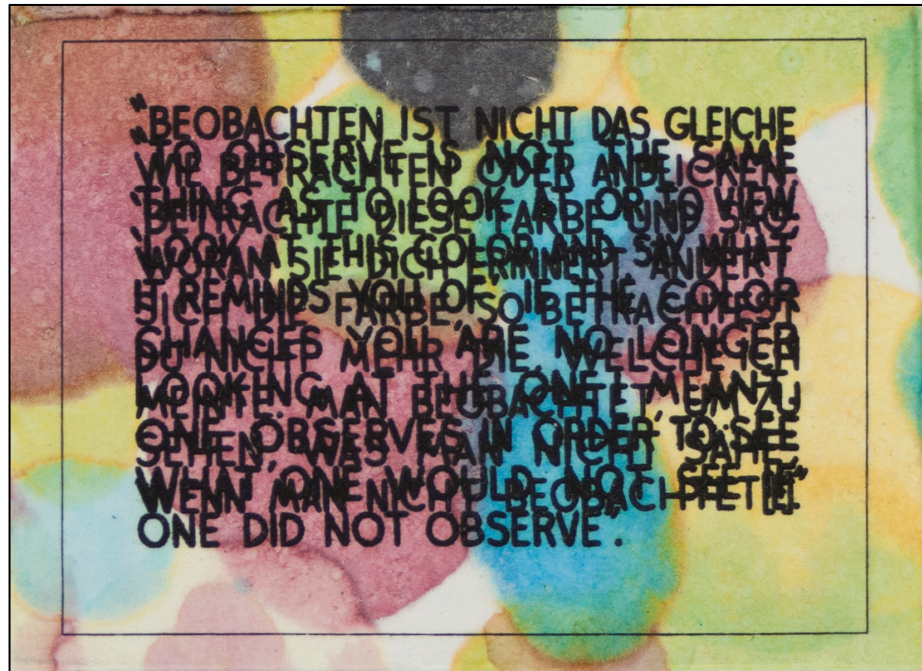
<http://museums.richmond.edu>

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For Immediate Release

August 4, 2011

THE HARNETT MUSEUM OF ART OPENS
ART=TEXT=ART: WORKS BY CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS



Mel Bochner (American, born 1940), *If the Color Changes...*, 2003, monoprnt with engraving and embossment on hand-dyed Twinrocker handmade paper, 2 3/4 x 3 3/4 inches, Sally and Wynn Kramarsky Collection. © Mel Bochner. Photograph by Laura Mitchell

On view in the Harnett Museum of Art, University of Richmond Museums, from August 17 to October 16, 2011, *~~Art=Text=Art~~: Works by Contemporary Artists* features 72 works created between 1960 and 2011, that include text or reference textual elements. Many of the works reflect developments in modern and contemporary art and critical theory, and relate to concurrent politics, history, and philosophy. Among the more than 40 artists included in the exhibition are Alice Aycock, Trisha Brown, Dan Flavin, Jane Hammond, Jasper Johns, Sol LeWitt, Ed Ruscha, Karen Schiff, Cy Twombly, John Waters, and Lawrence Weiner.

The earliest works in the exhibition represent the movement perhaps most closely aligned with text art — Conceptualism, which arose in the 1960s out of frustration with the development of modernism, especially with the dependence on an art object that was often explicated with extensive text (from the artist, a curator, or a critic). Instead, some of the artists included in *Art=Text=Art* such as Lawrence Weiner (American, born 1942), Sol LeWitt (American, 1928-2007), and Mel Bochner (American, born 1940) sought to create art that provided direct engagement with ideas, demystified the aura of the art object and creative act, and criticized the politics and economics of the traditional art world.

Some of the featured artists examine linguistics and explore the structure of text and its effectiveness or ineffectiveness as a tool of communication. Ed Ruscha (American, born 1937) makes works that exploit the visual and verbal form of words in conjunction or in contrast with their meaning, and William Anastasi (American, born 1933) examines issues of form and definition in his “shorthand” drawings. Karen Schiff (American, born 1967) considers the structure of text and its placement in books, newspapers, and illustrated manuscripts, and how that structure provides a context that can mimic or amplify the content of the text itself.

Work by artists who use text as a formal element similar to color, shape, and composition are also featured in the exhibition. American artist Jasper Johns (born 1930) subjects the shapes of numbers and letters to his unique painterly style that subtly questions the ease with which meaning is assigned to symbols. Cy Twombly (American, 1928-2011) included excerpts of poems that are so scrawled as to become illegible yet the words cohere with the overall composition seamlessly.

The artwork featured in the exhibition is from the collection of Sally and Wynn Kramarsky, New York. Wynn Kramarsky is a collector of modern and contemporary drawings, who has had portions of his collection exhibited at various museums, including the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC; and the Harvard Art Museum, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Art=Text=Art was organized by the University of Richmond Museums and curated by N. Elizabeth Schlatter, Deputy Director and Curator of Exhibitions, University Museums, with Rachel Nackman, Curator of the Kramarsky Collection, New York. The exhibition and programs were made possible in part by the University of Richmond’s Cultural Affairs Committee, and funds from the Louis S. Booth Arts Fund.

The exhibition is accompanied by an online catalogue featuring images of all of the works in the exhibition, an essay by N. Elizabeth Schlatter, and entries contributed by University of Richmond alumni and students among other artists, writers, curators, and critics. It is free and accessible at www.artequalstext.com

Programs

Thursday, September 1, 2011, 7 to 9 p.m.

7 p.m., Conversation, Cousins Studio Theatre, Modlin Center for the Arts

Collector and Curator: A Conversation

Wynn Kramarsky, art collector, and N. Elizabeth Schlatter, Deputy Director and Curator of Exhibitions, University Museums

8 to 9 p.m., Reception and viewing of the exhibition

Art=Text=Art: Works by Contemporary Artists

Harnett Museum of Art, University Museums

Friday, September 2, 2011, 2 to 4 p.m.

2 p.m., Artist's Talk, Harnett Museum of Art, Modlin Center for the Arts

2:45 p.m., Workshop, Keller Hall Reception Room, Modlin Center for the Arts

Karen Schiff, artist

Free, but registration is required, call Heather Campbell, Curator of Museum Programs, 804-287-6324 or email hcampbel@richmond.edu

Saturday, October 1, 2011, 12:15 to 4 p.m.

Family Arts Day, Modlin Center for the Arts and University Museums

Featuring art activities, music, food, refreshments, and fun for all ages

Friday, October 14, 2011, 7:30 p.m.

Dance Performance, Alice Jepson Theatre, Modlin Center for the Arts

Doug Varone Dance Company, *Chapters from a Broken Novel*

\$36, tickets may be purchased at modlin.richmond.edu or call 804-289-8980

Co-sponsored with the Modlin Center and funded in part by the University's Cultural Affairs Committee

All programs are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted

Note: Images for press are available by contacting Heather Campbell, 804-287-6324 or hcampbel@richmond.edu

University of Richmond Museums comprises the Joel and Lila Harnett Museum of Art, the Joel and Lila Harnett Print Study Center, and the Lora Robins Gallery of Design from Nature. Admission to all museums is free and open to the public. For group visits and tours, please call 804-287-6424 at least two weeks prior to your visit for reservations. Call 804-289-8276 for information and directions or visit our website at museums.richmond.edu

The Joel and Lila Harnett Museum of Art is located in the George M. Modlin Center for the Arts. Museum hours: Sunday through Friday, 1 to 5 pm. Closed Summer Break (5/21-8/16/11), Fall Break (10/8-11), Thanksgiving Week (11/19-27), Semester Break (12/10/11-1/8/12), Spring Break (3/3-11/12), Easter (4/8/12), and Summer Break (5/4-8/21/12).

The Joel and Lila Harnett Print Study Center is also located in the George M. Modlin Center for the Arts. Museum hours: Sunday through Friday, 1 to 3 pm., and by appointment (804-287-6424). *Closed same schedule as above.*

The Lora Robins Gallery of Design from Nature is located in a separate wing of the Boatwright Memorial Library with its entrance on Richmond Way. Museum hours: Sunday through Friday, 1 to 5pm. Closed Summer Break 97/23-8/16), Fall Break (10/8-11), Thanksgiving Week (11/19-27), Semester Break (12/10/11-1/8/12), Spring Break (3/3-11/12), Easter (4/8/12), Independence Day (7/4/12), and Summer Break (7/28-8/21/12).