

Museum to display Lipman's still life reinventions

Liz Ely 11:06 p.m. CDT October 10, 2015



(Photo: Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, "Once & Again: Still Lifes by Beth Lipman")

The Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts is unveiling several new exhibitions that use various forms of media and highlight each artist's unique artistic expression, inspiration, and individual talent. The collections will range from paintings and sculpture to photography, pastel drawings, and works on paper.

"Once & Again: Still Lifes by Beth Lipman," is scheduled to be on display from Nov. 14 to Jan. 31, 2016. Curator of Art for this exhibit, Dr. Jennifer Jankauskas, is excited to bring this touring exhibition to the MMFA and is eager to showcase the way Lipman has mastered using glass to create sculptures and photography to create her still lifes.

"Lipman's works will appeal to a wide audience. She is taking the still life tradition and reinventing it, which I find alluring and beautiful," Jankauskas said.

Lipman has built her reputation on her photographic talent and her ability to transform glass into exquisite sculptures, but there is something extra to be found beneath the surface of her works.

"Lipman is inspired by 17th century Dutch and Flemish masters, and her works address issues that are found in contemporary society such as consumption, excess, wealth, and lavish lifestyles. Her works are more about her ideas than the material and have a two- or three-fold meaning. Our culture is still about consumption which makes Lipman's work relevant. She is able to condense what is happening in our society in these tableaux," Jankauskas said.

Lipman's work is both complex and deep. Aside from the beauty she creates, her sculptures and photographs serve as a testament to the fleeting nature of life and can be looked at as an enduring study of humanity.

"The pieces are very narrative," Jankauskas said. "Lipman looks at the material of glass as being very fragile and breakable, but it has a lot of strength too. Upon closer observation, viewers will find things that are broken. Her work speaks to the transitory nature of our lives and how we cling to earthly possessions that are not lasting. Lipman wants us to dig in deeper to find the meaning to our own relationship with material objects."

Jankauskas also serves as Curator of Art for "Abundance and Pleasure: Still Lifes in Focus," an exhibition running from Nov. 14 through Jan. 31, 2016. Works have been selected from the MMFA's permanent collection and serve as a complimentary exhibit to Lipman's display.

"These still lifes illustrate the growth of the still life tradition over the years. We have works from the 19th century that range through more contemporary pieces. It shows the genre of still lifes in depth and different approaches used," Jankauskas said.

The exhibit will include 24 works of art that show a variety of media and approaches that lie within the still life tradition.

"Beth Lipman is approaching still lifes in a particular way, but this exhibition helps people to understand the history of still lifes and allows for a deeper reading of 'Once & Again.' The two exhibitions work in tandem. Both exhibits make it easy to experience the pleasure of still lifes. All the senses become engaged," Jankauskas said.

Retooled

Michael W. Panhorst, Curator of Art for "Retooled: Highlights from the Hechinger Collection," is eager for viewers to enjoy this traveling exhibition on display from Nov. 7 through Jan. 10, 2016. The collection includes 40 items by 28 artists and incorporates the use of tools as its central theme.

During the 1970s, hardware store owner John Hechinger collected pieces of art that related to hardware and tools. Visitors will find a variety of works that employ the use of tools in unexpected or ironic ways.

"There is a whole section on satire in his works. For instance, the exhibition has a glass hammer which wouldn't work as a hammer itself, but gets you to think about the form and function of common objects," Panhorst said.

The art in this collection dates from the last half of the 20th century, and some of the pieces may catch the viewer off-guard.

"When you see the art in the exhibition, you are bound to do some double-takes. Ordinary objects are presented in an innovate fashion. You will look at tools differently than you have before," Panhorst said.

Visitors will find an array of art presented in varying media, and Panhorst hopes the viewer will be able to find enjoyment among the works found in Hechinger's collection and the two still life exhibitions.

"Hechinger's collection doesn't require a tremendous intellectual investment," Panhorst said. "You don't have to bring a knowledge of 20th century art to the table to appreciate it. This collection has a wide range of sculpture, painting and photography, and within the sculpture there is a wide range of materials. Between the three collections, we have a nice variety of work that makes for a good menu of options for the viewers."

Photos, drawings

Fans can look forward to two other exhibitions on display from Oct. 10 through Dec 13. "Portfolio: Roland L. Freeman" is a collection of 12 photographs that portray candid moments within the Southern African American community during the 1970s.

Currently on display through Oct. 25 is "Sticking to Color: Pastel Drawings from the MMFA Permanent Collection."

For more information on the additional exhibitions for this year, log in to: www.mmfa.org.



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Oct. 8, 2015, 9:54 a.m.



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