

Currents and Confluences: A Symposium of Art + Ideas

Mar 3-5, 2015

The Studios of Key West

SCHEDULE OF PROGRAMS – DRAFT (updated 2/25/16)

THURSDAY MARCH 3

Journal Painting w/ James Lancel McElhinney

10am-3pm

In an age of hyper-mobility, digital tablets and mobile hand-held devices there has been a revival of their analog predecessors in the form of artists' notebooks. Artist and author James Lancel McElhinney delivers a talk on the history and practice of journal painting, then ventures into the field for a hands-on practical workshop. Participants are invited to bring sketchbooks, drawing and water-media.

\$60, \$50 mbrs. NOT included in Symposium fee.

Welcoming Remarks & Preview Reception - James Lancel McElhinney

5-6pm

The curator of *Currents & Confluences*, McElhinney is a visual artist, author, oral historian and the recent author of *Art Students League of New York on Painting*, a 2015 *New York Times* Gift Pick.

Edgar Heap of Birds, Aurora Robson & Frederick Brosen: Exhibition Opening

6-8pm

Three artists consider how we imprint ourselves on the landscape with the weight of culture, economy and memory. Heap of Birds lends a contemporary voice to indigenous traditions. Robson transmutes the stream of plastic waste we spin off into works of stunning beauty. Brosen's water color "portraits" of cities possess the ghostly presence of modern ruins. Also opening separately, landscape photographs by Wougim Heap of Birds of Oklahoma's Cheyenne Arapaho reservation.

FRIDAY MARCH 4

8:30 Coffee

Keynote Address w/ Katherine Manthorne

America's Eden: Circulating Florida's Image in Science, Art & Popular Culture

9-9:45

Manthorne kicks off the Symposium with a panorama of modern and historic images of Florida and Key West drawn from prints, books, tourist art and films. Katherine Emma Manthorne, PhD. is Full Professor in the doctoral program in art history at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. She is the author of *Tropical Renaissance* and numerous other books

and editor of *Traveler Artists: Landscapes of Latin America from the Patricia Phelps de Cisneros Collection*, 2015.

ARTISTS IN CONVERSATION – James McElhinney & Frederick Brosen

10-11am

Frederick Brosen's watercolors are in the permanent collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the New-York Historical Society. Brosen is represented by Hirschl & Adler Modern. He has received two Pollock-Krasner Foundation grants and his paintings were featured in *Still New York*, a monograph with an introduction by Ric Burns and in the exhibition *Coney Island: Visions of an American Dreamland*, currently on view at the Brooklyn Museum.

Friday Morning Lecture – Wougim Heap of Birds

11am-12noon

The photographer speaks on cultural and health issues affecting native peoples across the nation, touching on the relative "health" of pre-Columbian populations.

DEBRIS ART – Aurora Robson

11am-12noon

Aurora Robson is a multi media artist known for her elaborate and elegant constructions made from discarded plastics, with the parallel goals of disrupting the waste stream and creating beauty.

LUNCH

12:30-1:30pm

LECTURE – Edgar Heap of Birds

Provocative Native American Public Art, Studio Art Practice and the Environment

1:30-2:30pm

One of the most acclaimed artists of his generation, Heap of Birds employs a range of approaches, from traditional media to site-specific interventions, to give voice to indigenous people. He discusses his recent work and research, including connections to Cheyenne POW's held at Fort Marion (in St. Augustine) in the late 1800's. Heap of Birds is a Full Professor of Native American Studies at the University of Oklahoma.

STUDIO DEMO – Frederick Brosen

2:45-4:15pm

The artist, known for his almost photo-realistic depictions in watercolor of modern-day ruins and aging urban spaces, presents a lecture and demonstration exploring his philosophy and practice of watercolor painting, including his working setup and procedures.

Friday Afternoon Field Trip – Tribal Panels & Conch History w/ Edgar Heap of Birds and Arlo Haskell

2:45-4:15pm

Histories collide in a walking tour with Edgar Heap of Birds and a Key West historian. The artist's "Tribal Panels" reinsert native voices in the cityscape via official-seeming signage that disrupts and illuminates better-known historic locations: Hemingway House (visited today); Fort West Martello; the Lighthouse; and St. Paul's Church. Haskell is a writer, historian and Director of the Key West Literary Seminar; he contrasts his research of the history of Lower Duval Street with the epicenter of Key West tourism we know today.

Friday Cinematheque: *Key Largo* by John Huston, 1948

4:30-6:30pm

John Huston's classic film starring Humphrey Bogart, Lauren Bacall, Lionel Barrymore and Edward G. Robinson explores the dynamics of power as thugs on the lam intimidate hotel guests while Native American families caught in a raging hurricane seek shelter from the storm. James L. McElhinney introduces.

SATURDAY MARCH 5

8:30 Coffee

ARTISTS IN CONVERSATION – James McElhinney & Aurora Robson

9-10am

Aurora Robson is a multimedia artist known predominantly for her work intercepting the waste stream with elegant sculptures made from discarded plastics. Her work has received support from Pollock Krasner Foundation and the New York Council on the Arts.

SEXUALITY, IDENTITY AND TROPICAL STEREOTYPES IN AMERICAN ART

Ted Barrow, Maggie Borowitz, Jillian Russo (Session Chair and Moderator)

10am-12noon

Join art historians Ted Barrow and Maggie Borowitz and curator Jillian Russo for a discussion of sexuality and identity in the works of American artists who addressed themes of the tropics, vacation, and tourism, including John Singer Sargent, Winslow Homer, Felix Gonzalez-Torres, and others.

LUNCH

12:30-1:30pm

Margaret Rose Vendryes - *Richmond Barthé and his Expatriate Years in Jamaica*

1:30-2:30pm

The Jamaican born curator and artist known for her *African Diva Project* speaks about the African American subject of her 2008 book *Richmond Barthé, a Life in Sculpture*.

Saturday Afternoon Workshop – Artist Journals w/ James McElhinney

2:45-4:15pm

An abbreviated version of his Thursday workshop, McElhinney delivers a talk on the history and practice of artist journals, followed by tips and exercises to invigorate your creative practice. Participants are invited to bring sketchbooks, drawing and water-media.

**Saturday Afternoon Field Trip – *Flora, Fauna, Flotsam & Jetsam* w/ Mark Hedden
2:45-4:15pm**

A field trip up the road, and a walking tour of Boca Chica Beach, one of the Keys stranger and more emblematic crossroads. The area is a frequent landing point for migrants human and animal, and also habitat to a wide variety of wildlife, both human and animal. Led by writer, photographer, birding guide, and Studios affiliate Mark Hedden.

**Saturday Cinematheque: *Cabeza de Vaca, Mexico, 1991*
4:30-6:30pm**

Nicolás Echeverría's retelling of the catastrophic Narvaez expedition to Florida in 1528, how two shipwrecked Spaniards and an African slave made their way back to Mexico by working with indigenous communities. James L. McElhinney introduces.