

## ***Currents and Confluences: A Symposium of Art + Ideas***

Mar 3-5, 2015

The Studios of Key West

### **SCHEDULE OF PROGRAMS – DRAFT (updated 2/8/16)**

#### **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**

**9-9:45**

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 art and health issues affecting young people on the Cheyenne Arapaho reservation.

**DEBRIS ART – Aurora Robson****10am-12noon**

Artists, beachcombers and collectors working with debris and found objects are invited for an open conversation, critique and brainstorming session on how to transform what's thrown away. 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.

**Friday Morning Field Trip – Key West Flora & Cuban “Chugs”****10am-12noon**

Join a Keys biologist for a field trip, first to the Eco-Discovery center for an overview of the Keys ecosystem and the looming impact of sea rise, and then to the Botanical Gardens to see the display of Cuban “chugs” – homemade boats which Cuban migrants have ridden to our shores.

**LUNCH****12:30-1:30pm****ARTISTS IN CONVERSATION – James McElhinney & Edgar Heap of Birds****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.

**WATERCOLOR PAINTING – Frederick Brosen****1:30-4pm**

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 – Key West Flora & Cuban “Chugs”****1:30-4pm**

Join a Keys biologist for a field trip, first to the Eco-Discovery center for an overview of the Keys ecosystem and the looming impact of sea rise, and then to the Botanical Gardens to see the display of Cuban “chugs” – homemade boats which Cuban migrants have ridden to our shores.

**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.

**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.

**Saturday Morning Field Trip – Tribal Panels & Conch History**

**10am-12noon**

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.

**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 Field Trip – Tribal Panels & Conch History**

**1:30-3:30pm**

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.

**Saturday Afternoon Workshop – Artist Journals w/ James McElhinney**

**1:30-4pm**

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 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.