Fall 2013 - Summer 2014 Events

Susan Johnson
American Dreamscape
October 3 – December 7, 2013
Opening lecture by Susan Johnson
Thursday, October 3, 5 p.m.

American Dreamscape features multimedia work by internationally renowned artist Susan Johnson (American, born 1957). Johnson’s work is grounded in her American Dream through objects that are transformed by Johnson from 1950s idealized domestic interiors. American Dreamscape is about contemporary absurdity and excess. Viewers will encounter a site-specific installation referencing a 1950s tin-foil house transformed to human scale as an assemblage table featuring the artist’s incredible edible series of ceramic serving ware, highlighting our food habits, or in which we wonder if there is any exact origin of what we eat. Featuring several new works to be shown publicly for the first time, American Dreamscape presents a fresh vision of the world created by Johnson: a surreal metropolitan landscape of full consumption.

Born in San Francisco, Johnson received her BFA in studio art from San Francisco State University. New York and her MFA is painting from Columbia University. New York. Her work has had one-person exhibitions at the Brooklyn Botanical Garden, New York, Sweetwater College, Sweetwaters, Pennsylvania; William Wrenn-Proctor Arts Institute, Utica, New York; and the Peabody Essex Museum, University of Oxford, Oxford, England. She has received several national grants, fellowships, and residencies including the Andy Warhol Program, John Michael Kohler Art Center, Sheboygan, Wisconsin, the City of Saginaw/Saginaw Kunststiftung. Roedel Road, Saginaw, Michigan; and the Polish-American Foundation Fellowship award. Johnson is professor of art in the department of art and art history at St. Mary’s College of Maryland. Funding for Susan Johnson’s American Dreamscape comes in part from the City of Roanoke through the Roanoke Arts Commission, and from Roanoke County.

Opening Lecture by Susan Johnson
Thursday, October 3, 5 p.m.
France J. Niederer Auditorium

Artist Susan Johnson will discuss her exhibition, American Dreamscape, which is based on the continuing narrative of “This American Dream” as expressed through a series of vernacular objects from ideal homes, and in particular, the post-WWII suburban ideal. The artist’s own childhood memories of growing up in the 1950s and 1960s provide a framework for the show’s exhibition, while the artist also collects and re-presents objects and ephemera of the past half-century as a way of documenting America’s exposure of progress, convenience, and consumption.

Material Culture at Home: An Anthropology of the Home and Space and Stuff
Lecture by Iris Carter Ford, Ph.D.
Thursday, November 7, 5 p.m.

In conjunction with Susan Johnson: American Dreamscape, Iris Carter Ford, Ph.D. will present a lecture addressing issues of things, objects, and the social dynamics of how they play a profound role in shaping human experience. Ford is a professor of Anthropology at St. Mary’s College of Maryland. She earned undergraduate degrees at Howard University, Washington, D.C., and her Ph.D. in cultural anthropology from The American University, Washington, D.C. Ford’s research interests include popular culture and consumerism, and she is the recipient of a National Endowment for the Humanities grant to explore materialism in human life.

Opening Lecture by Iris Carter Ford, Ph.D.
Thursday, November 7, 5 p.m.
France J. Niederer Auditorium

Opening artist lecture with Michael Birch Pierce with an Exhibition Performance by Michael Birch Pierce with an Exhibition Performance by Michael Birch Pierce
Thursday, January 9, 5 p.m.

Wanderlust

Tuesday, May 13, 6 p.m.

“Scenes at an Exposition: 21st Century American Photography”
Lecture by Andy Adams

2014 Frances Niederer Artist in Residence

Combining Image & Text

Senior Majors Exhibition
Hollins University Art History Senior Symposium
Date TBA
Wanderlust

Senior Symposium

Susan Seydel Cofer, Draw Near
May 29 – September 13, 2014
Organized by the High Museum of Art in Atlanta, Georgia, and curated by Michael Rooks, the High Museum's Wieland Family Museum of Fine Arts Professional Fellowships Director. This exhibition presents the first career survey of Hollins alumna Susan Seydel Cofer '64. Draw Near presents the artist's delicate, abstract drawings dating from 1975 to the present. For more than three decades, Cofer has painstakingly carved away the paper's surface with short, vertical pencil lines, evoking organisms in embryonic stages of growth. Her drawings, whose delicate and highly detailed lines are like the mapping of places and terrains, suggest the evolution of land and can indicate the mapping of memories of places. Cofer’s drawings reveal the artist’s idea of home and the hybridity of various landscapes and experiences she has had during the past 30 years. Her drawings often incorporate architectural forms that suggest the mapping of places and terrains. Her work often includes images of winds and water, which are both forms of energy that are present in the world and in the human body. The artist’s work often includes images of winds and water, which are both forms of energy that are present in the world and in the human body. Cofer's work often includes images of winds and water, which are both forms of energy that are present in the world and in the human body. Cofer’s work often includes images of winds and water, which are both forms of energy that are present in the world and in the human body. Cofer’s work often includes images of winds and water, which are both forms of energy that are present in the world and in the human body. Cofer’s work often includes images of winds and water, which are both forms of energy that are present in the world and in the human body. Cofer’s work often includes images of winds and water, which are both forms of energy that are present in the world and in the human body. 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