

# NEWS

from the Worcester Art Museum

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## THE WORCESTER ART MUSEUM ANNOUNCES SPRING EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS APRIL, MAY, JUNE 2009

(WORCESTER, Mass., April 1, 2009) – The Worcester Art Museum is proud to announce our spring line-up of exciting exhibitions and events. *Rona Pondick: The Metamorphosis of an Object*, combines both ancient sculptural methods and the latest computer technologies. Organized for travel by the Smithsonian Institution, *Beyond: Visions of Planetary Landscapes* presents views of the solar system collected during 40 years of robotic space missions. See an autographed book belonging to America's first executed spy in *Spies Like Us! Nathan Hale and Major André*. From the 17<sup>th</sup> century onwards lively and quintessentially Japanese *ukiyo-e* ("floating world picture") genre and *Rinpa* school styles of screen printing are on view in *Heavenly and Earthly Delights: Alive in Colorful Display*. And opening at the end of June, *Printmaking Methods: Relief* will include prints from around world, dating from the 14<sup>th</sup> century to the present.

### EXHIBITIONS

#### **Rona Pondick: The Metamorphosis of an Object**

*April 18-October 11, 2009*

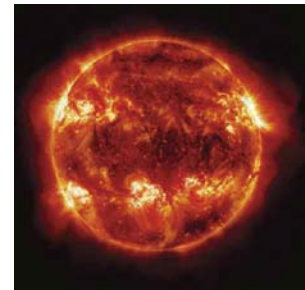
Since achieving international prominence in the early 1990s, Rona Pondick (b. 1952) has become one of the most accomplished sculptors of her generation. Over the past decade, she has combined both ancient sculptural methods and the latest computer technologies to produce a powerful group of hybrid sculptures that fuse human and animal bodies or human and flora forms. Unlike other considerations of her sculpture, this exhibition presents Pondick's art as the lens for looking at centuries of world sculpture from the collection of the Worcester Art Museum that she feels resonate with her own creative process. Provocative juxtapositions of Pondick's hybrids with a personal selection of historic sculptures illustrate her connections to the past and her understanding of the effects of artistic cross-fertilization. The exhibition features 14 examples of Pondick's sculptures from the past decade and focuses on her particular interest in three aspects of sculpture—the communicative capacity of gesture and posture, the treatment of hair, and the effects of repetition. A catalog of this exhibition is available.



#### **Beyond: Visions of Planetary Landscapes**

*Through May 24, 2009*

The views of the solar system that one can see while standing here on Earth are often impressive, if not mind-blowing. But from the inner solar system to its outer reaches, the closer and more detailed views of Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn and the other planets that have been achieved during the Space Age show unparalleled beauty and visions difficult to fathom. This otherworldly view, collected during 40 years of robotic space missions and then processed into breathtaking images, is the subject of *Beyond: Visions of Planetary Landscapes*. This exhibition paints a rarely seen and mesmerizing portrait of our solar system's diverse worlds and their moons. *Beyond: Visions of Planetary Landscapes* was organized for travel by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service. A catalog of this exhibition is available.



### **Heavenly and Earthly Delights: Alive in Colorful Display**

*Through June 7, 2009*

View six-panel and two-panel screen paintings, in the colorful and quintessentially Japanese *ukiyo-e* (“floating world picture”) genre and *Rinpa* school styles. The screens depict an array of pleasurable pursuits, customs and stylish kimono enjoyed by the townspeople of the flourishing city of Edo (present-day Tokyo). From the 17th century onwards such lively, decorative scenes, often complemented with gold or silver leaf backgrounds, were commissioned by patrons from the increasingly wealthy middle class.



### **WALL at WAM: “Actions Speak” THINK AGAIN (David John Attyah and S.A. Bachman)**

*Through Fall 2009*

Commissioned to create the 7<sup>th</sup> in the *Wall at WAM* series, artist collaborative THINK AGAIN has conceived a multi-media project examining the relationship among brutality, government, and the media. The project features a 67 foot interior wall mural in the Museum’s Renaissance Court, and a concurrent outdoor projection on the exterior façade of the Museum on Lancaster Street. The project, entitled “Actions Speak,” is the first to utilize both the Museum’s interior and exterior space. The projection is on view after dark during public evening hours on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month. Upcoming projection: April 6. Projections resume in September 2009.



### **Spies Like Us! Nathan Hale and Major André**

*June 5-September 20, 2009*

It all began with a book donation to the WAM Library Book Sale in 2007. A box of old books was donated to the Library along with a host of art books from a friend of the Museum. WAM Librarian Debby Aframe looked through the box and found a very old book inscribed “Nathan Hale, 1769.” It turns out that this book belonged to America’s most famous spy, Nathan Hale. It was most likely one of Hale’s textbooks from Yale College. There are few known signatures of Nathan Hale in the world, and one of them will be on view at WAM this summer. The Museum owns two famous depictions of the capture of Major André, the revolutionary spy for the British that led to the exposure of Benedict Arnold as a traitor. Starting in June, bring the family to the galleries and learn about two of the most famous spies in American history, our patriot Nathan Hale and Britain’s Major André. They were more like us than you think!



### **EVENTS – April 2009**

#### **WAM Zip Trip: Union (Bill Viola)**

*Saturday, April 11, 12-12:30pm*

Art is on the fast track this spring, as the Museum invites visitors to take part in a series of Zip Trips. These fast-paced docent-led gallery talks are designed to offer a short but in-depth view of a single work (or artist) on view in the Museum. [Woo cardholders](#)...this is a great way to get to know the Museum! Free with Museum admission. Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, 508.799.4406, [www.worcesterart.org](http://www.worcesterart.org)

#### **April Tour of the Month: An Infinite Frontier: A Brief Look at The Sky, The Heavens, The Planets, and Outer Space in Art**

*Wednesday, April 15, 2pm*

*Saturday, April 18, 2pm*

From the beginnings of human history, people have been trying to figure out what makes the skies, the heavens and universe tick. Join Museum Docent Mark Lynch as he leads a tour through the Museum of artworks that look UP. Free with Museum admission. Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, 508.799.4406, [www.worcesterart.org](http://www.worcesterart.org)

**Third Thursday's at WAM: LIVE MUSIC with Matt Shwachman and Tour of *Beyond: Visions of Planetary Landscapes***

*Thursday, April 16, 5:30-8pm*

The Museum is open late the third Thursday of every month until 8pm. In April, enjoy the acoustic rock sounds of [Matt Schwachman](#) and enjoy a tour of the exhibition [Beyond: Visions of Planetary Landscapes](#). Also on view, [THINK AGAIN](#) outdoor projection. Always great company. Wine tastings and a cash bar. Held in the Cafe. [Woo cardholders](#)...swipe your card and rack up your points! Free for Members, \$10 Non-members. Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, 508.799.4406, [www.worcesterart.org](http://www.worcesterart.org)

**Opening Reception for the Artist: Rona Pondick**

*Saturday, April 18, 5:30-7:30pm*

WAM celebrates the opening of the new contemporary exhibition, [Rona Pondick: The Metamorphosis of an Object](#). Since achieving international prominence in the early 1990s, Rona Pondick (b. 1952) has become one of the most accomplished sculptors of her generation. Cash Bar. Free with Museum admission. Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, 508.799.4406, [www.worcesterart.org](http://www.worcesterart.org)

**ARTventures Youth April Vacation Workshops**

*Tuesday-Friday, April 21-24, 10am-2:30pm*

Join us for ARTVENTURES as you explore, discover, and create this April vacation week. Fight medieval dragons with your paintbrush. Walk by the wind-swept Ij with pen and paper. Discover color and three-dimensions as you get your hands dirty and learn new artistic ideas! A selection of two-hour workshops each day along with extended day activities, gives kids at WAM a morning of discovery, a whole day of fun, or an entire week of ARTventure! Learn more by calling 508.793.4333 or 508.793.4334, or browse the Classes brochure [online](#). Register early as classes fill quickly! Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, 508.799.4406, [www.worcesterart.org](http://www.worcesterart.org)

**Archeological Institute of America (AIA) Lecture Series: Combating Heritage Loss in Cambodia**

*Thursday, April 30, 7pm*

Dr. Dougal O'Reilly, executive director of Heritage Watch, will discuss his work in stopping the illicit trade of antiquities in Cambodia. Cambodia's heritage has long been targeted by thieves and aggressors dating to the supposed 'sack of Angkor' by the Thai during the 15th century. More recently Cambodia has seen a renewed wave of heritage destruction, this time aimed to reap profit from prehistoric cemetery sites. Heritage Watch was recently honored by the Archeological Institute of America's 2009 Award for Excellence in Conservation and Heritage Management. Free. Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, 508.799.4406, [www.worcesterart.org](http://www.worcesterart.org)

**EVENTS – May 2009**

**Lecture: The Fairest of Them All: Cecilia Beaux and "Female" Portraiture**

*Sunday, May 3, 2pm*

Join us for a pre- Mother's Day way to honor your favorite women—come hear Cecilia Beaux specialist Sylvia Yount discuss Worcester's newly acquired portrait of Helen Bigelow Merriman. Mrs. Merriman was one of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Museum Corporators who helped found the Museum along side Stephen Salisbury. Dr. Yount will comment on Mrs. Merriman's portrait in the context of other mature works by Beaux and her contemporaries John Singer Sargent and Mary Cassatt. Louise B. and J. Harwood Cochrane, Curator of American Art, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, will also speak. A reception hosted by the Worcester Women's History Project will be held immediately following the lecture in Salisbury Hall, the new home of Mrs. Merriman's portrait. Free with Museum admission. Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, 508.799.4406, [www.worcesterart.org](http://www.worcesterart.org)

**Adult Summer Classes Begin – Register Today!**

*Monday, May 11*

With nearly 60 faculty members, classes range from traditional offerings like drawing, painting, sculpting, and photography to unexpected offerings like writing, yoga, computer art and cartooning, as well as exciting Travel & Learn programs here and abroad. Join the Museum for new classes and workshops, or sign up for an old favorite. Learn more by calling 508.793.4333 or 508.793.4334, or browse the Classes brochure [online](#). Register early as classes fill quickly! Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, 508.799.4406, [www.worcesterart.org](http://www.worcesterart.org)

### **May Tour of the Month: Still Life Paintings in the WAM Collection**

*Wednesday, May 13, 2pm*

*Saturday, May 16, 2 pm*

The Worcester Art Museum houses objects from many cultures and eras. In this thematic tour, you will view some breathtaking still life paintings with Museum Docent Lisa Reinberg, and learn more about their meaning. Free with Museum admission. Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, 508.799.4406, [www.worcesterart.org](http://www.worcesterart.org)

### **Third Thursday's at WAM: LIVE MUSIC with Jubilee Gardens and Tour of Rona Pondick**

*Thursday, May 21, 5:30-8pm*

The Museum is open late the third Thursday of every month until 8pm. Join us in May for the last LIVE MUSIC event of the season with a Courtyard Garden party. Enjoy the sounds of [Jubilee Gardens](#) and enjoy a tour of the exhibition [Rona Pondick: The Metamorphosis of an Object](#). Always great company. Wine tastings and a cash bar. [Woo cardholders](#)...swipe your card and rack up your points! Free for Members, \$10 Non-members. Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, 508.799.4406, [www.worcesterart.org](http://www.worcesterart.org)

### **Art All-State Exhibition & Reception**

*Saturday, May 30, 3-5pm*

Sixteen professional contemporary artists actively engage 140 sixteen-year-old artists as the 22nd annual Massachusetts Art All- State program converges on the Museum, Friday and Saturday, May 29 and 30. The students, competitively selected from across the state, will collaborate to create group installations inspired by the Museum's collections. The public is invited to attend and honor this year's Art All-State students with a reception and exhibition. This exhibition features artwork by the 16 professional artist/ mentors and will be on view in the Higgins Education Wing during Art All-State. Art All- State is collaboration between the Museum and the Massachusetts Art Education Association. Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, 508.799.4406, [www.worcesterart.org](http://www.worcesterart.org)

### **EVENTS – June 2009**

#### **Friends of the Library Celebrates 100th Birthday of the Library with Book Sale**

*Friday, June 12, 12:30-6pm: MEMBERS ONLY!*

*Saturday, June 13, 10am-3pm: Open to the Public*

The sale you have been waiting for is finally here! The Friends of the Library have collected, organized and priced over 1500 books for our Book Sale. Books cover all topics of art and include hard-to-find exhibition catalogues and magazines, as well as library duplicates, some of which are brand new. This year, there will be a large selection of Asian art books that were generously donated by an Asian art scholar. All income earned from the sale goes directly towards the acquisition of new books for the Library. The Library raised over \$10,000 at the last sale. Book dealers from around the country come to this great event; you should too! Don't miss the exhibition that is inspired by a book donated to our last Book Sale, *Spies Like Us! Nathan Hale and Major André*. Held in the Renaissance Court. Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, 508.799.4406, [www.worcesterart.org](http://www.worcesterart.org)

#### **Adult Summer Art Institutes**

*June 24-24 (daytime)*

Be a part of the 22nd annual Summer Art Institute and find just the class or intensive workshop to jumpstart your creativity and expand your skills in studio art or creative writing. Credit is available for some classes. Learn more by calling 508.793.4333 or 508.793.4334, or browse the Classes brochure [online](#). Register early as classes fill quickly! Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, 508.799.4406, [www.worcesterart.org](http://www.worcesterart.org)

### **About the Worcester Art Museum**

Worcester's world-class museum chronicles the extraordinary history of human creativity through 50 centuries, from ancient civilizations to present day. Stroll the many galleries and magnificent courts to discover a diverse world of art and ideas. Explore mosaics unearthed from ancient Antioch. Step inside a medieval chapter house. Admire paintings by Baroque and Renaissance masters. Enjoy the delicate brushwork and rich imagery of Asian

paintings. Relive American history in Colonial portraits and decorative arts. Experience the evolution of art movements such as Impressionism and Abstraction. Meet the emerging international artists of today. Special exhibitions showcase masterworks, seldom-seen gems, and important works on loan. The Museum also features a café, shop, and library and offers year round classes for children and adults.

Docent led public tours are offered Saturdays at 11am and Sundays at 1pm, September through May. Audio tours are also available in English and Spanish.

Hours: Wednesday through Sunday, 11am-5pm, Third Thursdays of every month, 11am-8pm, and Saturday, 10am-5pm. Admission: \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and full-time college students with current ID, and FREE for Members and all kids 17 and under. Admission is also FREE for everyone on Saturday mornings, 10am-noon (sponsored by The TJX Companies, Inc.).

Located at 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, Mass., easily accessible from the Massachusetts Turnpike (I-90), Route 290 and Route 9. Free parking is available near entrances on Salisbury, Lancaster and Tuckerman streets. For more information, call 508.799.4406 or visit the Museum web site at [www.worcesterart.org](http://www.worcesterart.org).

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