



Communications

Press Contact:
John Eding
312.629.6138 (office)
312.259.2968 (cell)
jeding@saic.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 5, 2011

**SCHOOL OF THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO (SAIC)
ANNOUNCES NEW SEASON OF VISITING ARTISTS PROGRAM**

*Eclectic program welcomes artists and scholars from
New York to Los Angeles to Amsterdam and Tel Aviv*

Chicago, IL—The School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) is pleased to announce the newest guest presenters for its **Visiting Artists Program (VAP)**, continuing a tradition formalized nearly 60 years ago. VAP hosts more than a dozen public presentations by artists each year in lectures, symposia, performances, and screenings. Five of its six presentations this spring are free; all are open to the public.

"This program is a cornerstone of Chicago's visual arts community, and an invaluable resource for those interested in the art of our time," notes **Andrea Green**, Director of the Visiting Artists Program. "The ideas of these internationally renowned artists are inspiring. VAP features some of the most compelling thinkers at work today—probing, provoking, and questioning the subjects at the core of the creative process and critical inquiry."

The new season begins on February 7 with performance theorist **José Muñoz**, continues with curator **Lisa Freiman**—organizer of the U.S. Pavilion at the next Venice Biennale—on February 28, and welcomes **Kori Newkirk** (SAIC BFA 1993) for this season's Distinguished Alumni Lecture on March 8. Artes Mundi-prizewinner **Yael Bartana** presents March 10, followed by Slovenia-born artist **Tobias Putrih** on March 31. The season concludes April 12 with a lecture from Kenya-born, New York-based artist **Wangechi Mutu**. Information on each presenter is included below.

Admission

February 7, February 28, March 8, March 31, April 12:
FREE and open to the public
Lectures begin at 6 p.m.
SAIC Columbus Auditorium, 280 South Columbus Drive

March 10 (Yael Bartana):
\$10 general admission, \$7 students, \$5 Gene Siskel Film Center members, \$4 SAIC faculty, FREE for SAIC students
6 p.m.
SAIC's Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 North State Street

February 7: José Muñoz
February 28: Lisa Freiman
March 8: Kori Newkirk
March 10: Yael Bartana
March 31: Tobias Putrih
April 12: Wangechi Mutu

VAP Online

In addition to making their appearances open to the public, SAIC presents many Visiting Artist Program lectures as recorded in audio and/or video through SAIC Wired, online at www.saic.edu/vap. Recent presenters include Harry Pearce and Martha Wilson.

José Muñoz

Monday, February 7, 6:00 p.m.
SAIC Columbus Auditorium, 280 S. Columbus Dr.
Free

José Esteban Muñoz is Chair of the Performance Studies Department at the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University. His publications include various articles and the monographs *Disideintifications: Queers of Color and the Performance of Politics*, *Cruising Utopia: the Then and There of Queer Futurity*, and the forthcoming *The Sense of Brown*. He has edited various volumes of critical and performance theory, most recently a special issue of the journal *Women and Performance* titled "Between Affect and Psychoanalysis: A Public Feelings Project." He is co-editor of the *Sexual Cultures* book series at New York University Press. *This presentation is supported in part by DePaul University, LGBTQ Studies Program.*

Lisa Freiman

Monday, February 28, 6:00 p.m.
SAIC Columbus Auditorium, 280 S. Columbus Dr.
Free

Lisa D. Freiman is Senior Curator and Chair of the Department of Contemporary Art at the Indianapolis Museum of Art. During her eight-year tenure there, Freiman has transformed the experience of contemporary art in Indianapolis. She has created a dynamic, widely renowned contemporary art program that has become an influential model for encyclopedic museums engaging in the art of our time. Actively seeking works of both emerging and established international artists, Freiman continues to provide a platform to support artists' work through major traveling exhibitions, commissions, acquisitions, and publications. In the fall of 2010, Freiman was appointed by the United States Department of State to be commissioner of the U.S. Pavilion for the 54th Venice Biennale opening June 2011.

Kori Newkirk: Distinguished Alumni Lecture Series

Tuesday, March 8, 6:00 p.m.

SAIC Columbus Auditorium, 280 S. Columbus Dr.

Free

Los Angeles-based SAIC alumnus Kori Newkirk (BFA 1993) creates multimedia paintings, sculptural installations, and photographs that transform his materials into gestures toward the semiotics of cultural identity and his own personal/familial history. His work explores the meaning of the materials, bringing to light the ways in which the implications may be transformed as they are forged through cultural context. A 10-year survey of Newkirk's work was presented at the Studio Museum in Harlem (2008) and his work has been featured in the 2006 Whitney Biennial and DAK'ART: 7th Dakar Biennial in Senegal, along with numerous solo exhibitions across the U.S. and abroad. *This lecture is presented in collaboration with SAIC's Painting and Drawing Department and Alumni Relations.*

Yael Bartana

Thursday, March 10, 6:00 p.m.

Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State St.

Admission: \$10 general admission, \$7 students, \$5 Film Center members, \$4 SAIC faculty, Free for SAIC students

Amsterdam- and Tel Aviv-based artist Yael Bartana's slippery, sophisticated films and videos reflect upon contemporary Israeli culture, the ideas and rituals that bind its citizens together, and its larger geopolitical context. Drawing upon ethnographic traditions, utopian Soviet-style propaganda, and historical reenactment, Bartana's work provocatively shuttles between irony and sincerity, playfulness and dead seriousness to examine relationships between the individual and the state. Bartana is a recent recipient of the prestigious Artes Mundi prize and her work has been exhibited internationally. *This presentation is in collaboration with Conversations at the Edge and SAIC's Department of Film, Video, New Media, and Animation.*

Tobias Putrih

Thursday, March 31, 6:00 p.m.

SAIC Columbus Auditorium, 280 S. Columbus Dr.

Free

Slovenia-born artist Tobias Putrih creates sculptures and installations that use everyday materials such as cardboard and Styrofoam to address architecture and structure, positing models for different uses and forms of inhabited space. His work was included in the 52nd Venice Biennale (2007) and the 29th Sao Paulo Biennale (2010), and has also been included in group exhibitions at venues such as the Museum of Modern Art (New York), MASS MoCA (North Adams, MA), the Hayward Gallery (London), White Cube (London), and the Van Abbemuseum (Eindhoven), among many others. He has had solo exhibitions at the Centre Pompidou, Paris; the MIT List Center, Cambridge, MA; and the Neuberger Museum, Purchase, NY.

Wangechi Mutu

Tuesday, April 12, 6:00 p.m.

SAIC Columbus Auditorium, 280 S. Columbus Dr.

Free

The work of Kenyan-born, New York-based artist Wangechi Mutu is a visceral response to her critiques of gender, culture, and mass media imagery. Exploring the female body as a site of engagement and provocation, Mutu's work is frequently populated by hybrid figures that possess an almost abject beauty. She samples imagery from disparate sources—medical diagrams, fashion magazines, anthropology and botany texts, pornography, and traditional African arts. Her signature aesthetic utilizes tactile, fleshy surfaces to readily engage in her own unique form of myth-making, bringing physical and conceptual depth while making social and personal commentary. Mutu has exhibited extensively, including recent one-person shows at Deutsche Guggenheim, Art Gallery of Ontario, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and Miami Art Museum.

About the Visiting Artists Program

The primary mission of the Visiting Artists Program is to educate and foster a greater understanding and appreciation of contemporary art through discourse.

Founded in 1868, the Visiting Artists Program (VAP) is one of the oldest public programs of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Formalized in 1951 with the establishment of an endowed fund by Flora Mayer Witkowsky, the Visiting Artists Program hosts public presentations by artists, designers, and scholars each year in lectures, symposia, performances, and screenings. It is an eclectic program that showcases artists working in all media including sound, video, performance, poetry, painting, and independent film, as well as significant curators, critics, and art historians.

ABOUT THE SCHOOL OF THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

A leader in educating artists, designers, and scholars since 1866, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) offers nationally accredited undergraduate, graduate, and post-baccalaureate programs to nearly 3,200 students from across the globe. Located in the heart of Chicago, SAIC has an educational philosophy that is built upon an interdisciplinary approach to art and design, giving students unparalleled opportunities to develop their creative and critical abilities, while working with renowned faculty who include many of the leading practitioners in their fields. SAIC's resources include the Art Institute of Chicago and its new Modern Wing; numerous special collections and programming venues provide students with exceptional exhibitions, screenings, lectures, and performances. For more information, please visit www.saic.edu.

###