MIAD exhibitions mark 2009-2010 with diversity — of techniques, media, cultures, themes and partnerships

For release: September 9, 2009
For more info: Mark Lawson, Director of Galleries; 414.847.3350, mlawson@miad.edu
Vivian M. Rothschild, Communications Director; 414.847.3239, cell, 414.507.7364, vrothsch@miad.edu

MILWAUKEE—The Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design continues its global and local exposition of contemporary art in the main galleries of the college’s Third Ward campus, marking 2009-2010 with a diversity of techniques, media, cultures and themes. The gallery program, curated by Director of Galleries Mark Lawson, is supported in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Among this year’s highlights: Contemporary art making from ephemeral installation work to painting with non-traditional tools like physics, gravity and chopsticks embolden a first of its kind alumni exhibition curated by John McKinnon, Assistant Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at the Milwaukee Art Museum, and Jason S. Yi, multidisciplinary artist and MIAD Foundations Faculty Chair. Culture in Transition marks its fifth groundbreaking year by exploring the changing character of world culture and the complex issues of multicultural identities by artists diverse in ethnicity, geographic area, media and point in their artistic careers. Kicking off the year are Out of the Suitcase III, a joint curatorial project with UW-Milwaukee’s INOVA gallery, showcasing area artists whose innovative works have traveled the globe; and The Great American Kitchen, a unique exhibit that both entertains and educates with its comprehensive exploration of the history and character of one of America’s significant contributions to world culture.

MIAD’s Frederick Layton Gallery and Brooks Stevens Gallery of Industrial Design are located in the college’s Jane Bradley Pettit Building, 273 E. Erie St. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday, except during school holidays. More information about building hours is available at miad.edu. Admission is free.

The 2009-2010 main gallery schedule:

The Great American Kitchen: The Formative Years 1900 – 2010

Through February 20, 2010, Brooks Stevens Gallery of Industrial Design

A unique exhibit that both entertains and educates with its comprehensive exploration of the history and character of one of America’s significant contributions to world culture – the modern kitchen. Its rise in importance over a century has paralleled the emancipation and equalization of women in our culture as well as the development of the consumer product industry. A multitude of products and other artifacts such as recipe books and decorative motifs are grouped in five period vignettes to exhibit a century of cultural values, product innovation and consumerism.

Out of the Suitcase III

Through October 3, 2009, Frederick Layton Gallery

Curated by Bruce Knackert, Director of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee’s INOVA gallery, and Mark Lawson, MIAD Director of Galleries, this exhibition displays works by some of the artists who received awards over the last two years from the Greater Milwaukee Foundation’s Mary L. Nohl Suitcase Export Fund.

Participants include: 2007 Awardees Kendall Polster, Welded steel sculpture; Karen Gunderman, Wall-based ceramic installation; Chris Miller, Mixed-media wall pieces; Juliet Jaeger ’06, large prints; Paul Calhoun, MIAD Creative Connections Instructor, Photographs; Colette Odya Smith, Pastel works; Brent Coughenour, Video installation.

(MORE)
2008 Awardees Marcelino Stuhmer, Multi-media installation; Marna Goldstein Brauner, Mixed-media installation; Hai-Chi Jihn, Circular mixed-media pieces; Yevgeniya Kaganovich, Sculptural works; Paul Druecke ’87, a piece in Catalano Square; Lynn Tomaszewski, MIAD Foundations Professor, Mixed-media drawings/painting; Kay Knight, Paintings; Gina Rymarczuk, Large prints; James Charles, Sculptural works.

Reconnection: An Exhibition of Alumni Work
October 16 – December 12, 2009

Ten alumni converge to make their mark through a variety of materials and explorations in this first of its kind exploration of alumni work. Curated by John McKinnon, Assistant Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at the Milwaukee Art Museum, and Jason S. Yi, a multidisciplinary artist and MIAD Foundations Faculty Chair, the exhibition offers a glimpse into contemporary art making from ephemeral installation work to painting with non-traditional tools like physics, gravity and chopsticks.

The selected artists are: Joseph Bolstad ’05, Paul Cowan ’07, Jessica Kaminski ’01, Mayuko Kono ’05, Kathryn Martin ’01, Boris Ostrerov ’08, Nate Page ’00, Laura Paulini ’85, Dan Steinhilber ’94 and Christopher Willey ’04.

Culture in Transition
Transitional/Transcultural: New Paradigms for a New Century
January 15 (Reception Winter Gallery Night, 5 – 9 p.m.) – February 27, 2010; Frederick Layton Gallery

MIAD’s acclaimed Culture in Transition Series marks its fifth year with an exhibition that explores the changing character of world culture and the complexity of multicultural identities. During a period of rapid cultural change, visual artists from across the globe and diverse aspects of the multi-faceted United States reveal that all culture is essentially personal as well as transpersonal. A product not only of their past but of their current culture, the artists actively negotiate these boundaries in their work. In doing so, they redefine viewers’ perspectives both of western, American culture as seen by others less immersed in it and of the interconnectedness of the larger culture of humanity that develops through such interactions.

Curated by MIAD’s Director of Galleries, Mark Lawson, with generous curatorial advice from artist/educator Siona Benjamin, the exhibit includes artists who, in addition to producing work relevant to the topic of the exhibition, are diverse in ethnicity, geographic area, media and point in their artistic careers. They are: Siona Benjamin, Indian-American-Jewish artist (Montclair, NJ); Grisha Bruskin, Russian-American artist (New York City); Carol Hamoy, American-Jewish artist (New York City); Tom Jones, Native-American photographer (Madison); Annu Palakannathu Matthew, Indian-American artist (Kingston, RI); Faith Ringgold, African-American multi-media artist (San Diego); Roger Shimomura, Japanese-American artist (Lawrence, KS); Jason S. Yi, Korean-American multi-media artist and MIAD Foundations Faculty Chair (Milwaukee).

MIAD 2010 Senior Exhibition
April 16 (Reception Spring Gallery Night, 5 – 9 p.m.) - May 15, 2010; All MIAD Galleries

Innovative and insightful, the MIAD 2010 Senior Exhibition offers a glimpse of the next generation of artists and designers. Seniors from MIAD’s 11 B.F.A. majors present works in a variety of media and approaches to art and design. This largest exhibit of its kind in the state is one of the most exciting annual exhibitions of the spring season.

MIAD 2010 Juried Senior Exhibition
May 29 – August 8, 2010

Juried by MIAD’s faculty, this annual exhibition has proven to be very popular with the art-going public as a summer staple that features the talents of recent graduates from MIAD’s 11 majors.

MIAD is Wisconsin’s only college devoted exclusively to the education of professional artists and designers. Founded in 1974, it is accredited to award the bachelor of fine arts degree in 11 majors. With 80 percent of its 3,000 graduates using their innovative skills in Wisconsin, the college contributes a vital “brain gain” to the state that shapes its creative and economic future.