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September 20th, 2007

Fleisher Challenge #2: October 19 Through November 17, 2007

Challenge #2 Continues the 30th Season of Juried Exhibitions Featuring Gregory Brellochs, William Gannotta, and Rebecca Saylor Sack: October 19 through November 17, 2007

The Samuel S. Fleisher Art Memorial will present the second exhibition in the thirtieth season of the four-part Wind Challenge Exhibitions at Fleisher—the Delaware Valley’s premier juried artist exhibition program. This season’s twelve Challenge artists were selected from a field of 273 applicants to exhibit in one of four three-person exhibitions. The second of this year’s Wind Challenge Exhibitions features drawings by Gregory Brellochs, landscape paintings by William Gannotta, and abstract paintings by Rebecca Saylor Sack.

Warren Angle, Director of Exhibitions at Fleisher, stated, “Gregory, William, and Rebecca each in their own vibrant way, give us an expanded sense of our perception of landscape. We are thrilled that they were chosen as Challenge artists in this 30th anniversary exhibit series.” This year’s artists were chosen by an illustrious jury of artists and curators including, Jon F. Clark, Professor of Art Tyler School of Art/ Artist and Hillary Jay, Director, The Design Center of Philadelphia University, for crafts; Ron Tarver, photographer and Katherine Ware, Curator of Photography, Alfred Stieglitz Center, Philadelphia Museum of Fine Art, for photography; Sarah McEneaney, painter and Elyce Gonzolas, Assistant Curator Institute of Contemporary Art, for painting; Marsha Moss, Independent Public Art Curator and Warren Holzman, sculptor for installation/sculpture; Lois Johnson, Printmaker /Professor of Fine Arts University of the Arts and Jaqueline van Rhyne, former Curator of Prints and Photographs, The Print Center, for works on paper.

Fleisher’s Challenge #2 opens on Friday, October 19th, with an reception from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., and continues through November 17th. Both the exhibition and the opening reception are free and open to the public. Gallery hours are 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, with additional hours of 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Saturday.

On Saturday, October 27, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., artist/teacher Mary Murphy will lead the Challenge “TalkAbout,” an in depth dialogue with Challenge Artists and audience. Admission is free.

Gregory Brellochs asks the questions, what and how can we directly experience the force of and energy manifest in nature that is just beneath the surface? This interest has led him to work abstractly in order to seek out essential forms, hybrid forms, and forms that seek to embody nature as opposed to representing one of its many manifestations. He rarely starts his large drawings with a definite image in mind. He seeks out the nature of the piece through the act of drawing, watching it emerge and evolve while attempting to position himself as an observer to the unfolding of the work. Mr. Brellochs received his B.F.A. from Massachusetts College of Art, Boston, MA, and his M.F.A. from the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia, PA.

William Gannotta is a landscape painter who is captivated by the opportunity to be outdoors observing the natural world. Painting allows him to enter a blissful state in which he becomes deeply involved with seeing and a witness to what he is depicting. After starting his oil paintings outdoors he returns to the studio with a reservoir of information to bring them to full completion. Mr. Gannotta studied at Philadelphia College of Art, Philadelphia, PA, and received his Certificate in Painting from the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia, PA.

Rebecca Saylor Sack considers her paintings fields of action in which sensations of corporeal presence, and its relationship to modern notions of world and image, are engaged through the liquidity of paint. Paint is layered and reworked directly on the canvas, leaving direct evidence of the painter’s hand or action. Exposed canvas and physical rending of the surface, contrasts delicate passages with broad brushstrokes all implying a sense of impending violence, or violation. Ms Saylor Sack received her B.F.A. from The Cooper Union, NY, NY, and her M.F.A. from Tyler School of Art, Elkins Park, PA.

The Samuel S. Fleisher Art Memorial is widely known as the country’s oldest and largest free and low-tuition visual arts program for adults and children. Founded as the Graphic Sketch Club in 1898, Fleisher has been a vital educational resource that includes instruction in the visual arts, a vibrant exhibitions program, and youth outreach programming at public schools and community centers throughout Philadelphia.

Fleisher exhibition programs are supported in part by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, the Philadelphia Cultural Fund, Independence Foundation, the Philadelphia Cultural Leadership Program of The Pew Charitable Trusts, and donations from more than 2,000 student members and friends.

The Philadelphia Museum of Art is among the largest art museums in the United States, showcasing more than 2,000 years of exceptional human creativity in masterpieces of painting, sculpture, works on paper, decorative arts and architectural settings from Asia, Europe, Latin America, and the United States. An exciting addition is the newly renovated and expanded Perelman Building, which opened its doors in September 2007 with five new exhibition spaces, a soaring skylit gallery, and a café overlooking a landscaped terrace. The Museum offers a wide variety of enriching activities, including programs for children and families, lectures, concerts and films.

For additional information, contact the Communications Department of the Philadelphia Museum of Art at (215) 684-7860. The Philadelphia Museum of Art is located on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway at 26th Street. For general information, call (215) 763-8100 or visit the Museum’s website at www.philamuseum.org.

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