



6 NEW JERSEY MASTERS
KEAN UNIVERSITY

INTRODUCTION

Kean University is pleased to feature the artwork of Malcolm Bray, James Kearns, Harry I. Naar, Miguel Osorio, Keith Smith, and Rhoda Yanow in the current exhibition titled, *6 New Jersey Masters*. This exhibition has been curated by W. Carl Burger, and is on view from June 18th through July 16th, 2009 in the Center for Academic Success Gallery. On the occasion of the opening of the show, this premier exhibition space is being renamed The Karl and Helen Burger Gallery in honor of W. Carl Burger's beloved parents.

W. Carl Burger was born in Germany in 1925. Shortly thereafter, his family came to America, moving to Irvington, New Jersey. His interest in the arts began in his early teens. He graciously attributes his success and the opportunities he has enjoyed throughout his life to pursue a career as an artist to his courageous parents. Today, W. Carl Burger is a legendary figure, known throughout the region as an outstanding artist, a remarkable teacher and a dear friend to many. Over the years, he has influenced thousands of students and has been recognized with many awards and prizes for his artwork. On the Kean University campus, merely mentioning his name brings a smile to those who know him. He is Professor Emeritus, having taught in the Fine Arts Department from 1961 through 1993, and a loyal friend to the community.

The six highly accomplished artists chosen for this exhibition represent a small portion of the creative talent in New Jersey. Two of the artists and W. Carl Burger were born abroad, but all permanently reside in the area. This is a reflection of the increasingly varied ethnic profile of New Jersey and the diversity we enjoy at Kean University, where our student population now represents some sixty countries. Like W. Carl Burger, many Kean University students are first generation Americans, and nearly half are the first in their families to go to college. We look forward to more exhibitions in the future that will continue to celebrate the rich and outstanding artists of New Jersey.

On behalf of Kean University and the College of Visual and Performing Arts, I wish to thank W. Carl Burger for his generosity to Kean University and for the wonderful artworks each of the participating artists created and shared in this show. Many thanks to my assistant, Mariel Collerd for her consistent efforts to make this project a success. I especially want to thank President Dawood Farahi, our acting Vice President Mark Lender, Holly Logue, the acting Dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts, and Douglas Nelson and Cynthia McChesney at the Kean University Foundation, all of whom together made this possible. We appreciate their support for the growing exhibition program and the opportunity to show the work of *6 New Jersey Masters*.

Neil Tetkowski
Director of University Galleries



JAMES KEARNS



Memorial, 2002-2004
Oil on board
45 x 34 in.

“My central focus has been the human figure and the human condition, seen more or less as the human comedy... and of what visual sense I can make of the worlds of personal feeling involved.”

James Kearns is an outstanding modern sculptor, painter, and printmaker. He was born in 1924 in Scranton, Pennsylvania and graduated from the Art Institute of Chicago in 1950. For thirty years he was an instructor at the School of Visual Arts, in Manhattan. He also taught for several summers at the prestigious Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in Maine. Kearns' first one man exhibition took place in New York in 1956 and since that time his artwork has been included in exhibitions at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia, the National Institute of Arts and Letters, and The Whitney Museum of American Art both in New York City. His most recent one-person show was in 2006 at Rider University in Lawrenceville, New Jersey. He has also illustrated a number of important books, including, *Can these Bones Live* (1960) and *The Heart of Beethoven* (1962). James Kearns' artwork is included in the permanent collections of The Museum of Modern Art and The Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City, the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., The Newark Museum in Newark, New Jersey and the New Jersey State Museum in Trenton, New Jersey. James Kearns lives and works in Dover, New Jersey.

MIGUEL OSORIO



“Art should stimulate viewers, give rise to thoughts and emotions as it does for me... my direction as a painter is to visually stimulate and subliminally educate the public. In doing so, I grasp an occasion to tear away the masks we all wear and express my personal opinions about world issues.”

Miguel Osorio was born in Barcelona, Spain in 1954, but lived in Portugal until immigrating to the United States in 1984. His formal art education began at the National Society of Belas Artes, in Lisbon, Portugal. He worked at design ateliers in the Lisbon area, and worked in Madeira Island (Portugal) for the Funchal Municipality at the Cultural Arts Center, and the Teatro Balthazar Dias. In recent years Osorio has studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art in Philadelphia. Currently Miguel Osorio lives in Rosemont, New Jersey and spends most of his time working in the studio.

***Woman, Fish
& Little Horse***, 1990
Oil on canvas 36 x 30 in.

KEITH SMITH



Gluttony, 2008
Acrylic on panel
24 x 18 in.

“The large works in this exhibition are from a time when I worked in a noisy SoHo studio in New York City. These works are big, sensual and full of intensely colored suggestive images. This work shouts, look at me... [by contrast] I now work in a quiet studio above a boathouse in Sparta, New Jersey. The small recent paintings are more introspective, less flashy black and white images... they look inside me. If an artist lives long enough, artwork will eventually mark the stages of his life.”

Keith Smith earned his Master of Fine Arts degree from the California College of the Arts in Oakland, California. His artwork has been exhibited at The Museum of Modern Art in New York City, the Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C., The Butler Institute of American Art in Youngstown, Ohio, The New Jersey State Museum in Trenton, and The Morris Museum in Morristown, New Jersey. His artworks are in the permanent collections of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Crocker Museum and the California State Art Museum both in Sacramento, California, and the Long Beach Art Museum in Long Beach, California.

Keith Smith is the recipient of a Ford Foundation Fellowship Grant, a National Merit Award winner in Experimental Media from the American Film Institute and Sony Corporation, and twice a Gold Medalist in Painting and Drawing at the California State Exposition. He is a frequent lecturer at hospitals and universities on the subject of bereavement and art as a healing force. Keith Smith is a Full Professor, the Interim Dean of the Liberal Arts and the Chairperson of the Visual Arts Department at the County College of Morris in Randolph, New Jersey. Keith's home and studio are on Lake Mohawk located in northwest New Jersey.

MALCOLM BRAY



Rezo

Oil on linen
50 x 44 in.

“The painting can move rapidly, change directions and be literally 'repainted' at anytime.”

Abstract painter Malcolm Bray was born in Hull, England and immigrated to the United States in 1984. There is a clear relationship between his artwork and that of the New York Abstract Expressionists. His latest paintings are spontaneous but maintain substantial structure to evoke the dimensional aspects of volume and space. For two decades, Bray owned Old English Pine, in Lambertville, New Jersey, a store that specialized in antique furniture imports. In 2004, Bray gave up this retail business to concentrate full-time on his art career. He works in his second floor studio and gallery located above his former store in Lambertville. Malcolm Bray is represented by Cheryl Hazan Gallery in New York and by Morpeth Gallery in Hopewell, New Jersey.

HARRY I. NAAR



“In my drawings, I want the viewer to experience a visual excitement through an appreciation of the pure raw marks beyond the depiction of the scene: to recognize that from the variety of marks can emerge a clarity of lines, shapes, and forms that describe and reveal an idea about nature and life.”

Harry I. Naar was born in 1946 in New Brunswick, New Jersey. He is a professor of fine arts and the director of the art gallery at Rider University in Lawrenceville, New Jersey. In 1968 he received his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the Philadelphia College of Art and in 1970 his Masters of Fine Arts degree from Indiana University, in Bloomington. The following year he studied in Paris, France where he met the renowned painter Jean Helion. Harry I. Naar has exhibited widely in the region. His works are included in permanent collections throughout the state of New Jersey including, the Morris Museum in Morristown, the New Jersey State Museum in Trenton, The Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum at Rutgers University, the Hunterdon Art Museum in Clinton, the Jersey City Museum, the Montclair Art Museum, The Newark Museum and the Noyes Museum of Art in Oceanville. In 2005 the artist received a grant from the Brodsky Center for Innovative Print and Paper at Rutgers University. Recently, the American Academy of Arts and Letters in New York City honored Mr. Naar by selecting his drawing for a purchase award for the permanent collection at the Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center at Vassar College. Harry I. Naar lives in Lawrenceville, New Jersey.

Into and Beyond

Ink on board

40 1/2 x 38 1/2 in.

RHODA YANOW



Steppin Out, 2005
Pastel on paper
44 x 60 in.

“Ever since I can remember I have always had a fascination for people. There are moments that I observe that I want to immortalize. My goal is to paint these special moments, to freeze in time, for everyone to enjoy.”

Rhoda Yanow is best known for her work in pastels. She works in her studio from sketches on 3” x 5” cards that she makes while going about her daily life. She was born in Newark, New Jersey and studied at Parsons School of Design and at the National Academy of Design in New York City. She lives in Whitehouse Station, New Jersey and teaches at DuCret School of Art in Plainfield, New Jersey, at The Newark Museum, and at the Pastel Society of America in New York City. Rhoda Yanow holds memberships in many local and national art associations including the Allied Artists of America, the Audubon Artists, the American Women Artists, the Pastel Society of America, the Degas Pastel Society, the New Jersey Watercolor Society, and the National Association of Women Artists.

Rhoda Yanow has received numerous awards for her work, and has been published in many books and magazines. She has been featured in *American Artist* magazine and the *Star Ledger*. Rhoda Yanow's work is in the permanent collection of The Butler Institute of American Art in Youngstown, Ohio, the Pastel Society of America in New York City, The Newark Museum in Newark, New Jersey and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, England.

6 NEW JERSEY MASTERS

James Kearns

Mask Maker, 1995
Oil on board, 55 x 30 in.

Memorial, 2002-2004
Oil on board, 45 x 34 in.

Late Afternoon, 2005-2006
Oil on canvas, 52 x 39 in.

Early Evening, 2008-2009
Oil on canvas, 40 x 30 in.

Miquel Osorio

***Woman, Fish
& Little Horse***, 1990
Oil on canvas, 36 x 30 in.

Noah's Ark – 3rd Floor, 2000
Pastel on paper,
diptych: 98 x 60 in.

Expecting, 1996
Pastel on paper, 36 x 40 in.

Keith Smith

Heel and Toe, 1989
Oil on canvas, 84 x 60 in.

The Birth of Venus, 1990
Oil on canvas, 84 x 60 in.

Gluttony, 2008
Acrylic on panel, 24 x 18 in.

Avarice, 2009
Acrylic on panel, 24 x 18 in.

Malcolm Bray

Rezo, 2006
Oil on linen, 50 x 44 in.

Elterwater, 2007
Oil, charcoal on canvas, 38 x 52 in.

Largo, 2008
Oil, charcoal on canvas, 52 x 72 in.

East Riding, 2009
Oil, charcoal on canvas, 48 x 60 in.

Harry I. Naar

Into and Beyond
Ink on board, 40¹/₂ x 38¹/₂ in.

The Path Too
Ink on board, 46¹/₂ x 39¹/₂ in.

The Spring Stream
Ink & watercolor on board, 40¹/₂ x 38¹/₂ in.

Cadence
Etching, 55¹/₂ x 48¹/₂ in.

Rhoda Yanow

Origami Man, 2006
Pastel on paper, 40 x 30 in.

Black Stockings, 2007
Pastel on paper, 40 x 29 in.

Steppin Out, 2005
Pastel on paper, 44 x 60 in.

Interior Rome Hotel, 2006
Pastel on paper, 48 x 66 in.

