FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 18, 2005

WHAT: Exhibition:  
THE MIRACULOUS IN THE EVERYDAY

WHEN:  
December 1, 2005 to March 12, 2006  
(Closed December 15, 2005 - February 6, 2006)  
Gallery Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 11 am - 4:30 pm and Saturday-Sunday, 2-5 pm.

WHERE:  
University Gallery, Fine Arts Center, UMass Amherst  
413-545-3670 Press-quality images are available upon request. 
For more information please check www.umass.edu/fac/universitygallery or 
email jklind@admin.umass.edu

RELATED EVENTS:  
Talk by artist, Tom Friedman: Thursday, December 8, 2005, 5 pm, FAC Lobby  
Opening Reception: Thursday, December 8, 2005, 6–8 pm  
Readings by poets, Galway Kinnell and Kirtland Snyder: Wednesday, 
February 8, 2006; 7 pm, Bowker Auditorium, Stockbridge Hall, UMass  
Karen Dolmanisth Slide-Talk: Thursday, March 2, 2006; 5 pm, 
University Gallery

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This exhibition explores the work of three renowned conceptual and installation artists -- Tom Friedman, Felix Gonzalez-Torres, and Gabriel Orozco -- whose use of modest, humble materials celebrate the mundane in contemporary life. Adjectives often attached to their art -- fleeting, fragile, and ephemeral -- describe an experience that approaches everyday life itself.

The Miraculous in the Everyday follows upon a four day ceremony at the University Gallery (November 14 - 17) where Tibetan Buddhist monks created a sand mandala painting from inception to completion and final dispersal into the Connecticut River, symbolizing the "world in harmony" (Sanskrit word for mandala) and the impermanence of all earthly things. Although links between Buddhist perspectives and the work of these three artists are meant only to be inferred, their art encourages an attitude of heightened awareness in the viewer, like the sudden illuminating change in perception that lies at the center of Zen practice. The work of Tom Friedman, Felix Gonzalez-Torres, and Gabriel Orozco enriches our encounter with the real, regenerates our perception, opens our eyes to what is already there, and evokes the feeling of the world made new.

A carpet of shimmering silver wrapped candies, shredded pieces of felted lint draped on lines that stretch across the gallery, and a white column created from unrolled toilet paper are some of the highlights of the surprisingly elegant and lyrical works included in this exhibition.

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Tom Friedman (born in St. Louis, 1965) will install an entirely new work created specifically for this exhibition. He has had solo exhibitions at The Museum of Modern Art in New York (1995); the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago (2000); The New Museum of Contemporary Art in New York (2000); the Prada Foundation in Milan (2002); and appeared in numerous group exhibitions around the world.

The work of Felix Gonzalez-Torres (born in Cuba, 1957; died in New York 1996) was the focus of several major museum solo exhibitions in his lifetime and after his death. Retrospectives of his work have been organized by the Guggenheim Museum in New York (1995), the Sprengel Museum in Hannover, Germany (1997) and the Serpentine Gallery in London (2000).

The work of Gabriel Orozco (born in Mexico, 1962) has been featured in international exhibitions including the Sculpture Project in Munster (1997); XXIV SÃO Paulo Biennial; Documenta X (1997); Venice Biennale (1993, 2003); as well as numerous solo exhibitions at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C.; the Philadelphia Museum of Art; the Serpentine Gallery, London; and the Kunsthalle, Zurich.

Related Events

Talk by artist, Tom Friedman
Thursday, December 8, 2005
5 pm, Fine Arts Center Lobby

Opening Reception
Thursday, December 8, 2005
6 – 8 pm

Readings by poets, Galway Kinnell and Kirtland Snyder
Wednesday, February 8, 2006
7 pm, Bowker Auditorium, Stockbridge Hall, UMass

Galway Kinnell has published ten books of poetry, and has been awarded a Pulitzer Prize, a National Book Award, and a MacArthur Fellowship. He has also published translations of the work of Yves Bonnefoy, Francois Villon, and Rainer Maria Rilke. Kinnell is a former Vermont State Poet. He teaches at New York University, where he is the Erich Maria Remarque Professor of Creative Writing.

Kirtland Snyder has published two chapbooks of poetry, one of them in collaboration with the American activist-painter, Leon Golub, and a spoken-word CD, Walking with Thoreau. His work has appeared in numerous journals and anthologies, and is among the poetry considered in Susan Gubar's critical study, Poetry After Auschwitz.

Galway Kinnell's reading is made possible with kind support from the English Department; the

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Department of Comparative Literature; the Office of the Dean, College of Humanities and Fine Arts; the Vice Provost for Research; the Vice Provost for Outreach at the University of Massachusetts; the English Department, Amherst College; and The Poetry Center at Smith College.

Karen Dolmanisth Slide-Talk  
Thursday, March 2, 2006  
5 pm, University Gallery

Karen Dolmanisth (MFA, UMass Amherst) has shown her work internationally in exhibitions from Exit Art in New York City to the Vienna Secession Museum in Austria. She has taught at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and the Academy of Fine Arts in the Netherlands. She will discuss her ephemeral constructions and meditative drawings in the context of The Miraculous in the Everyday.

The University Gallery is a program of the Fine Arts Center. Support has been provided in part by the University of Massachusetts Arts Council.