



News Release

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BEYOND THE IMAGE: ABSTRACTION TODAY OPENS AT PENINSULA FINE ARTS CENTER JUNE 14, 2008

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. – Abstraction, one of the most exciting and yet challenging art forms, is explored in a major exhibition at Peninsula Fine Arts Center from June 14-August 31, 2008. Actually five exhibitions in one, *Beyond the Image: Abstraction Today* presents the works of 23 artists who display a diversity in the abstract style.

By definition, the abstract style is art in which the artist attempts to convey attitudes and emotions through nonrepresentational means. Says Pfac Curator Michael Preble, “From the Russian Non-Objective artists in the early 20th century through Abstract Expressionism and into the 21st century, many artists have used an abstract vocabulary to express themselves. This exhibition is intended to help us appreciate the surprisingly diverse range of abstractions – some derived from nature, others from human emotions and experience. These works go beyond traditional image-making and feature color, texture and process in new ways.”

The featured exhibition is *Recent Work: Suzanne Jackson*. The artist, who teaches at the Savannah College of Art and Design, has built a reputation for her energetic works, combining color, texture and a variety of materials. The work is quite commanding, engaging the human experience due to their size and monumentality. This exhibition was organized through Katherine T. Carter & Associates.

Also on view is *Clayworks: Recent Work by Myung Rye Kim*. A visiting artist at Baltimore Clayworks, Kim has created a series of exquisite clay sculptures. Says Kim: “My work is influenced by nature, its shape, form and space. I want to represent the aspects of fragmented memory in my work.”

Area talent is represented by the work of two Newport News artists. E. Angelina Shaw presents *Ascending Journey*, an installation created specifically for Pfac along with a selection of her intricate paintings. Ray Abell’s series of eloquent and refined abstractions are included in his solo exhibition, *On the Earth, Of the Earth*.

Concluding the exhibition is a collection of abstract drawings, paintings and prints called *Abstract Masters*, which includes works by artists whose work helped set a standard for the abstract genre in America. Works by Richard Diebenkorn, Sam Francis, Helen Frankenthaler, Jasper Johns and Joan Mitchell, among others, are on view. Lenders to the exhibition include the Muscarelle Museum of Art at the College of William and Mary and Norfolk Southern Corporation.

The Peninsula Fine Arts Center is located at 101 Museum Drive within Mariners' Museum Park, Newport News, Va. Hours: Tuesday 10 am-8 pm (free 5:30-8 pm, Tuesday evenings); Wednesday, Friday & Saturday 10 am-5 pm; Thursday, 10 am-8 pm, 5:30-8 pm Arts Café (Pfac members free, non-members \$3); and 1 to 5 pm Sunday. Admission (tickets valid 7 days): \$7.50/Adult; \$6/Seniors, Students, Active-duty Military & AAA; \$4/Children (6-12); Free/Children 5 and under. Call (757) 596-8175 for information or visit www.pfac-va.org