

2005 MSU MFA show at Kresge

- ▶ **What:** MSU Master of Fine Arts Exhibition 2005
- ▶ **Where:** Kresge Art Museum, MSU, 355-7631
- ▶ **When:** Through April 10
- ▶ **Hours:** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays (until 8 p.m. Thursdays); noon to 5 p.m. weekends
- ▶ **Info:** www.artmuseum.msu.edu

About the show

Michigan State University's Master of Fine Arts Exhibition at Kresge Art Museum is designed to showcase some of the finest contemporary art the East Lansing area has to offer.

This year's graduate candidates include

Michelle Word, Mara Jevera Fulmer, Renee Robbins, Lisa Simon, Meng-Shu You and Katherine Krcmarik.

▶ **Michelle Word**, from Perryville — a small, rural town in Kentucky — has always been interested in

nature. "Our relationship to nature is a huge issue," she says. Her large, chaotic collages of interlocking and overlapping organic forms, executed with a natural and synthetic palette, attempt to create an abstracted, nontraditional view of nature: One does not observe, one is immersed.

▶ **Mara Jevera Fulmer's** diverse ethnic background inspired her to make universal connections between diverse cultures. "Se(a) Crossings: Time in the Midst of the Pressures of Chaos" is a walk-in installation featuring large mylar prints, video projections, sound and poetry. In the work, the urban experience of several art students from Flint is compared to the village experience of the inhabitants of Fiji. Fulmer's installation operates as a conversation, capturing the similarities and contrasts of an ancient culture and an inner city experiencing hard times.

▶ **Renee Robbins'** large, textural paintings become natural environments unto themselves. Like two of her fellow candidates, she hails from Kentucky and is interested in nature. "I think about everyday life," she says, "from the cell to the cosmos, and how they come together to form an identity."

Her paintings strive to represent an inner landscape, to capture a dialogue between the public and private self.

▶ **Lisa Simon**, the third candidate from Kentucky, attempts to visualize growth, and the minute flux of time, on a molecular level. Her mixed-media corner installation includes ceramics and paint. "I've been thinking about the balance between the tranquil and terrible, the gigantic and miniature." She focuses on that moment when we realize we really are very small in the grand scheme of things by presenting the horror and beauty of the microscopic.

▶ **Meng-Shu You's** installation touches on issues of

capitalism and globalization. Or is it "Coca-colonization"? In one part of her installation, You presents seven hundred blue-and-white porcelain Coke bottles complete with traditional Chinese glazes and bamboo renderings. "The Privilege and Power," an interactive piece of the installation, features 30 handmade tiles inscribed with languages other than English, however only English speaking visitors will be permitted to walk on them.

▶ **Katherine Krcmarik's** "Anger," a still from a 30-second movie, "demonstrates her belief that 'the exciting part of the Internet as an interactive media lies in the seemingly limitless possibilities.'"

The Friends of Kresge, a community-based association of people interested in the visual arts, celebrates its 30th anniversary this year.

As the MFA show hangs, and Kresge's programs — including lectures, films, tours and classes — continue, the museum prepares for major renovations.

"2009 will be Kresge's 50th anniversary," says Susan Bandes, the museum's director since 1986, "and we hope to be in the expanded space."

Meanwhile, it's business as usual, and the MFA exhibition should not be missed.



Michelle Word: "Substratums"



Kresge Art Museum

Walk-in art: Mara Jevera Fulmer's "Se(a) Crossings: Time in the Midst of the Pressures of Chaos" is a multi-channel video and mixed media installation at Kresge Art Museum.



Meng-Shu You: "Bricks"



Renee Robbins: "Below the Surface"