

ACKLANDMUSEUMSTORE

12 May 2011
For immediate release

Ackland Museum Store Exhibition shows “Nothing Is Impossible” *Seven North Carolina Artists featured in store’s inaugural gallery exhibition*

Chapel Hill, NC—Every year, 1,200 artists venture to Penland School of Crafts in North Carolina’s Blue Ridge Mountains to engage in workshops in clay, books and paper, drawing and painting, glass, iron, metals, photography, printing and letterpress, textiles, wood, and other media. The artists’ ages and life experiences are widely varied, but they all come seeking what Penland offers: an environment in which to immerse themselves in one medium at a time, growing from the knowledge and experience they gain from the school’s instructors, students, and staff.

On view through 9 July 2011, the Ackland Museum Store’s first gallery exhibition, *Nothing is Impossible*, represents seven North Carolinians who have made a transformative journey to Penland as students, artists-in-residence, studio assistants, and teachers.

Margaret Couch Cogswell employs humor and a child-like sensibility to engage her readers with her whimsical “books” made of paper-mache, paint, found objects, and the written word.

The encaustic paintings of **Celia Gray** are created intuitively, guided by her observations of landscapes—domestic, manmade, and natural—and the slight shifts and movements within them. She layers clear beeswax and oil paint between drawings on rice paper, considering each one individually as it is incorporated into a finished work.

Bryant Holsenbeck documents the “stuff” of our society that we use once and throw away. She is an environmentalist who transforms discarded materials into joyful objects which surprise us and remind us that our wild places are shrinking.

Combining natural and domestic elements to create narratives about connections to the landscape, **Ann Marie Kennedy’s** handmade paper works evoke memory, desire, and the evolution of experiences that accumulate in the places that we occupy.

Evan Lightner uses period-specific furniture forms as a jumping-off point for reinterpretation and elaboration. His novel uses of veneer, construction techniques, alternative materials, and the reinvention of specific decorative ideals bring to life some of the furniture forms of the early twenty-century Parisian Art Deco ateliers and the more organic 1970s American Craft movement.

Gretchen McLaren’s jewelry has its roots in the artistic movement of Minimalism and draws upon German, Scandinavian, and Japanese aesthetics. Her use of high-karat colored gold, cabochon cut stones, and matte finishes accentuate the simple geometry of her pieces.

Over the last ten years **Sylvie Rosenthal** has gained recognition for her intricate and detail-oriented furniture, sculpture, contraptions, and art objects. Her work combines the unexpected, improbable parts and pieces of both furniture and art objects with complex simplicity.

Nothing is Impossible will open for viewing at 6:00 PM on Friday, 13 May 2011, as part of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro 2nd Friday ArtWalk. Refreshments will be served from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. The Ackland Museum Store will remain open until 9:00 PM.

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Ackland Museum Store Mission

The purpose of the Ackland Museum Store is to extend the mission of the Ackland Art Museum, which is as follows:

The Ackland Art Museum animates, inspires, and transforms people's lives with works of art. As an academic unit of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the Museum acquires, preserves, exhibits, and interprets works of art to fulfill the University's mission to provide teaching, research, and public service to the people of North Carolina.

All proceeds from the store support the Ackland's exhibition and education programs.

Store Hours

Monday - Saturday 10:00 AM - 5:30 PM

Thursday 10:00 AM - 8:30 PM

Sunday 12:00 – 5:00 PM

Ackland Art Museum members receive a 10% discount on all Museum Store purchases.

In addition, members enjoy special discounts during several designated Member Shopping Days throughout the year. For membership information, please call 919.843.3676 or go to ackland.org.

For more Ackland Museum Store information, please contact:

Alice Southwick

Ackland Museum Store Manager

919.962.0216.