



ART GALLERY NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Jeanne Koles

617-627-3094

jeanne.koles@tufts.edu

Tufts University Art Gallery

Aidekman Arts Center

40R Talbot Avenue

Medford, MA 02155

www.ase.tufts.edu/gallery

galleryinfo@tufts.edu

CROSS-CURRENTS IN RECENT VIDEO INSTALLATION: WATER AS METAPHOR FOR IDENTITY

February 9 – April 2, 2006

Thursday, February 9, 5:00pm **ARTIST TALK**

with Ingrid Mwangi and Tufts Professor of English Christina Sharpe

Thursday, February 9, 5:30-8:30pm **OPENING RECEPTION**

Saturday, February 18, March 11, April 1, 1:00pm **TOURS WITH A TUFTS GALLERY GUIDE**

Medford, MA – The Tufts Art Gallery proudly presents *Cross-Currents in Recent Video Installations: Water as Metaphor for Identity*, featuring recent video installations by four international artists with ties to Africa: Zwelethu Mthethwa, Ingrid Mwangi (with Robert Hutter), Moataz Nasr, and Berni Searle. In each work, the amorphous quality of water is explored as a metaphor for shifting notions of identity, migration, and memory – of fluidity and instability, of spiritual rebirth, of violence, and of traumatic loss of life. Water speaks to the invisible currents that drive the dissolution of familiar categories of nation, race, and identity, and the dilution and loss of cultural heritage—all central issues today in contemporary postcolonial art and theory.

Cross-Currents is co-curated by Pamela Allara, associate professor of modern and contemporary art at Brandeis University, Peter Probst, associate professor of art history at Tufts, and Amy Ingrid Schlegel, director of the galleries and collections at Tufts.

Prior to the opening on February 9, the public is invited to a 5:00pm dialogue between participating artist Ingrid Mwangi and Tufts Professor of English Christina Sharpe. (Co-sponsored by: the Goethe Institute of Boston, Tufts Africa in the New World Program, and Tufts Art History and Political Science Departments)

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ZWELETHU MTHETHWA (b. 1960, Durban, South Africa; resides Cape Town, South Africa)

Crossings, 3-channel digital video and rear projection; 2003/2005

INGRID MWANGI-HUTTER (b. 1975, Nairobi, Kenya; resides Ludwigshafen am Rhein, Germany)

Down by the River, video projection, light object, red soil, text, 2001

MOATAZ NASR (b. 1961, Alexandria, Egypt; resides Cairo, Egypt)

The Water, video projection, 2001

BERNI SEARLE (b. 1964, Cape Town, South Africa; resides Cape Town, South Africa)

About the Forget, three-channel digital video projection, 2005

The Tufts University Art Gallery animates the intellectual life of the greater university community through exhibitions and programs exploring new, global perspectives on art and on art discourse. The gallery is located in the Aidekman Arts Center on the Tufts University Medford campus. The Gallery is fully accessible and admission is free. Hours are 11 am to 5 pm Tuesday through Sunday and Thursdays until 8 pm. Parking is available in metered spaces on Latin Way Road and in the Dowling Hall parking garage at 419 Boston Avenue. Visit our new website: **www.ase.tufts.edu/gallery** or call **617-627-3518** for more information.