Tufts Third Annual Summer Exhibition
June 1 – July 30, 2006

Public Opening Reception
Thursday, June 1, 5:30–8:30pm • Music by the Ken Field Trio

Tour with a Tufts Art Gallery Guide
Every Saturday in June and July at 2pm
(except for July 1)

Medford, MA – The Tufts University Art Gallery is pleased to present its Third Annual Summer exhibition celebrating the vitality of the arts in Somerville and Medford, Tufts’ host communities. This year’s exhibition focuses in depth on the work of 11 artists; it offers larger presentations of two-dimensional works in varying mediums and several site-specific installations. It is organized by Amy Ingrid Schlegel, director of galleries and collections, and guest curator Mara Williams, former director of the Brattleboro (VT) Museum & Art Center and principal of Arts Bridge Consulting.

Participating Artists: Aparna Agrawal, Kelvy Bird, Betty Bolivar, Jeffrey Ellse, Nona Hershey, Mary Kenny, Kyle Larabee, Denise Malis, Maria Muller, Chris Nau, Gabrielle Rossmer

Aparna Agrawal

“The paintings and works on paper are inspired from my time spent in the natural world. The images in this exhibition are made using mixed media, collage, oil, and drawing materials. I use pages from an ancient dictionary found in the trash, which have inspired and directed these drawings. The text functions as a ground pattern, and a different visual dimension.”

Kelvy Bird

“My paintings express felt, often silent, emotional tensions. The ‘Pulse’ images address the bloom, or emission, of human presence from an energetic, intangible field.”
**Betty Bolivar**

“In these drawings, I challenge myself to stay with an idea, to focus, and to ride it out. Using pen and paper, I write a phrase or word over and over. The process of repetitive mark-making brings about a subconscious arrangement of forms and shapes on the page. This body of work responds to my inability to be present in the moment and my restlessness in life and work. I am addicted to change and believe that change is a good thing. I discovered that this artistic process liberates me from my restlessness and brings me a sense of calm.”

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**Jeffrey Ellse**

“I find people are filled with a mysterious aura. Staring at and interpreting them for hours becomes a meditation on the very nature of existence.”

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**Nona Hershey**

“Clouds have always represented the boundary between this world and the mystery beyond. My invented clouds are an attempt to evoke mutability and ephemeral luminosity.”

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**Mary Kenny**

“These short films were conceived after visiting the Australian Bush and northern Canadian fishing grounds, where I met a number of individuals from traditional cultures. I was struck by their deep connection to the earth, their generations-old way of life, and the inherent danger of the hunt. The films are made in the tradition of children’s literature, picture books, and animation from the Brother’s Grimm to South Park.”

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**Kyle Larabee**

“Using collage and other techniques, my work utilizes organic matter such as leaves in an effort to better see and understand the world around me.”
Denise Malis

“My interest as an artist lies in the interaction between our conscious and unconscious state of mind. In many ways the unseen world—that of our subconscious—holds the key to how we perceive the world in which we live. I tend to think in layers, which is reflected in the art process and in the imagery that emerges.”

Maria Muller

“My artwork is a blending of photography and painting. With vibrant colors, I infuse my subjects with mood, mystery, sensuality, or whimsy. Accurately representing reality is not my intent. The colors ultimately transform the seeming reality of the photographs into something hyper-real, evocative, or, in the end, surreal.”

Chris Nau

“My objective is to build images that merge elements that are at odds with one another into a new, more intense permutation. I concentrate on boundaries that are interrupted, altered or invaded. I physically cut into many of my pieces to introduce a layer that opposes the very unity of the picture plane. Ultimately, I’m after a new wholeness that is more powerful than either the physical or the illusory elements alone.”

Gabrielle Rossmer

“Recent scientific evidence suggests that clay is one of the building blocks of life on earth. Life from earth itself! Perhaps that is why clay’s materiality is so human. All the work shown here is ‘figurine’ sized, like the Roman lares, or household gods. Working in this material and scale is a grounding force for me in a time of worldwide upheaval.”

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. Summer hours are 11am to 5 pm Wednesday through Sunday. Limited free reception parking is available in the lot behind the Aidekman Arts Center. Parking at other times is available in metered spaces on Latin
Way Road and in the Dowling Hall parking garage at 419 Boston Avenue. Visit our website: www.a.se.tufts.edu/gallery or call 617-627-3518 for more information.