

ART GALLERY NEWS RELEASE

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Tufts University Art Gallery
at the Aidekman Arts Center
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**MFA THESIS
EXHIBITION**

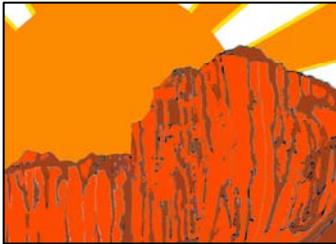
April 10 – April 27, 2008

Public Opening Reception: Thursday, April 10, 5:30-8:30pm

Gallery Talk with the Artists: Thursday, April 17, 6:00pm

MEDFORD, MA – An **MFA Thesis Exhibition** of seven artists in the joint graduate degree program of Tufts University and the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston opens **April 10** at the **Tufts University Art Gallery**. This exhibition of contemporary art is the third in an annual, ongoing series of MFA Thesis Exhibitions presented by Tufts.

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS



ALEXIS ADAMS

“My work consists of a series of extra-large screenprints depicting an imagined earth 50 million years in the future. The thriving future flora and fauna exist in a celebratory post-post-apocalyptic state completely devoid of humans. Stylistically, the large-scale posters reference both communist-era propaganda and modernist travel advertisements.”



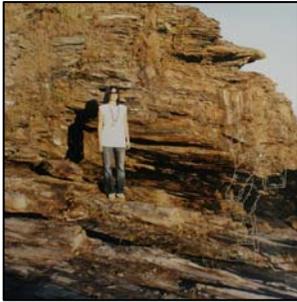
NELSON DACOSTA

“My paintings are a series of narratives and observations about my life - my childhood, the murder of my family in Angola's civil war, my artistic training in Cuba, and my use of art as a gateway to the future. I use art to communicate about war and destruction, about sadness and poverty, about death and where people are going when they die. Art is an immensely important part of my life, and with it I have been rebuilding myself.”



GEORGIE FRIEDMAN

“*Seas and Skies* is a multi-channel video installation with a physical presence. The videos are composites of incongruous waters and skies. The images themselves are disjointed, and the planes of the images are also disrupted. Visitors can walk around and between the skies and the water, experiencing and viewing seemingly familiar elements in new ways.”



NAHNA KIM

“Where are you from?”

“What are you?”

“As an Asian American, these seemingly harmless questions consistently remind me that I am an outsider. In response to this and combined with my personal feelings of isolation, I have created a series of photographs of myself as contestants in a beauty pageant, a series of photographs of myself as an explorer of ‘Americanism’, and a sculptural installation of snow globes that represent the tourist trinket.”



NICOLE KITA

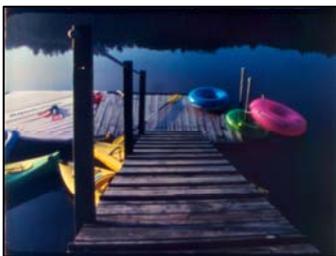
“I am interested in the mimetic qualities, transactional symbols, and legitimizing practices of ritual, or symbolic healing.

The work takes multiple forms: acrylic paintings, graphite drawings, and di-cut vinyl installations. The taxonomy of images includes the original dance fitness of Jazzercise, performance outfits, crystals, thrown confetti, P. Diddy and Jay-Z, Pope John Paul II, baton-like coyote legs, deer hooves, and headdresses for both the shaman and the showgirl.”



CHRISTINE ROGERS

“*Somehow Form a Family* contains photographs and a video from a family road trip I took by myself this summer to see the things that normal families do: the Grand Canyon, amusement parks, roadside attractions. I headed westward to California stopping at places from my family's own mythology. The photographs and video are paired with a series of ‘family portraits’ made with strangers who could be in some way related to me. In the work, I draw connections between photography and faith, and between photography and desire.”



KATHLEEN RUGH

“My 5-minute 16mm film installation, *I remember that they existed, but not what they were*, is projected as a continuous loop through a specially designed feeding system built on a freestanding wall. Viewers encounter this sculptural, functional mechanism before entering the viewing area. The projection and sound of the film fill a darkened room and depict rainstorms captured in the contrasting landscape of the northeastern and the southwestern United States. The resulting environment represents the flux of summer weather. Moving storms and looping film combine to frame the nature of cyclical experience that is so central to our lives.”

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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 11am to 5 pm Tuesday through Sunday and Thursdays until 8 pm. **Free daytime visitor parking** is available in the two parking lots off Lower Campus Road. Parking passes must be obtained at the front desk of the gallery and displayed on your dashboard. Free event parking is available without a pass in the lot behind the Aidekman Arts Center, off Lower Campus Road. Visit our website: www.ase.tufts.edu/gallery or call 617-627-3518 for more information.