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Exhibition Announcement

JUDY PFAFF: FALK VISITING ARTIST
January 13 – April 17, 2011

The Weatherspoon Art Museum at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro is pleased to present the exhibition Judy Pfaff: Falk Visiting Artist. The internationally renowned artist is one of the pioneers of installation art, which is work that is site-specific and three-dimensional. Since the 1970s, she has been on the forefront of combining aspects of sculpture, painting, and architecture to form dynamic works that transcend aesthetic boundaries.

A skilled sculptor, printmaker, and painter, Pfaff's unique process combines traditional and non-traditional techniques and incorporates materials derived from the man-made
and natural worlds. For her installations, Pfaff collects materials and makes smaller sculptural components in her studio, which she brings with her to the site. She then arranges this visual information and constructs the actual piece in the gallery space. As a result, Pfaff relies on spontaneity and her great creative energy to produce an installation that responds to her environment. Her expansive, meandering works generate a strong emotional impact upon the viewer by transforming the way a space is experienced.

Her intriguing list of materials for this exhibition includes Japanese lanterns, tree lichens, honeycomb cardboard, foam, and sunflowers. Pfaff explained in a gallery talk that many of the natural elements she places in the work are taken from her own garden, for example the tree limbs in the work *River Road*. Pfaff found the trunks in this work while they were floating down a river. Pfaff is also drawn to industrial and manufactured materials, such as expanding green foam and the honeycomb cardboard that she acquires directly from its inventor. Additionally, Pfaff works in the traditional artistic methods of woodcut and collage, which are included in the framed paper-based works in the exhibition. Pfaff described the pieces in this show as a reflection of her age, since they are darker in color and also in mood. After experiencing several tragedies in a short period of time, she took a departure from the bright colors and whimsical nature of her earlier work.

Originally created for an exhibition at the University of Maryland, *River Road* was adapted by Pfaff specifically for the Weatherspoon’s Falk Gallery. The artist and her assistant worked on-site for more than a week to install the work, the title of which is inspired by a wooded road that runs along the Hudson River near Bard College in upstate New York. *River Road* is dense with materials, yet through the artist’s deft handling and innovative composition, it exudes a feeling of weightlessness. The work melds the natural world with the architecture of the gallery by engaging the sunlight and view of trees through the window.

Judy Pfaff (b. 1946, London, England) earned a BFA from Washington University, St. Louis, and an MFA from Yale University. Pfaff’s work has been shown in the United States and abroad since 1973. She has had major solo exhibitions at the Elvehjem Museum of Art, University of Wisconsin, Madison (2002); Denver Art Museum (1994); St. Louis Art Museum (1989); and Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo (1982). Pfaff represented the United States in the 1998 São Paolo Biennial. Major artwork commissions include Pennsylvania Convention Center Public Arts Projects, Philadelphia; GTE Corporation, Irving, TX; Wacoal, Tokyo, Japan; and set design for a production at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. Her work is in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art; Whitney Museum of American Art; Brooklyn Museum of Art; Detroit Institute of Arts; and Weatherspoon Art Museum, among others. Pfaff was the recipient of the prestigious MacArthur Foundation Award (2004), as well as fellowships from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation (1983) and the National Endowment for the Arts (1979, 1986). She is Professor in the Arts and Co-Director of the Studio Arts Program at Bard College, Annanda-on-Hudson, New York.

Judy Pfaff is the Spring 2011 Falk Visiting Artist, a residency program produced collaboratively by the Weatherspoon and the Art Department at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro that includes a series of MFA graduate student critiques and artist talks.

The exhibition is organized by Xandra Eden, Curator of Exhibitions, Weatherspoon Art Museum. Special thanks to the 2010/11 Falk Visiting Artist Committee, Gay Dillard, Seymour and Carol Cole Levin, and Adeline and David Talbot for their support.
On Tuesday, February 8 at 12 pm, there will be a free 20 minute docent-led tour of the exhibition as part of the **Noon @ the ‘Spoon** series. The group will meet in the Falk Gallery of the Weatherspoon Art Museum.


All events are free. For a complete, updated list of programs, visit [http://weatherspoon.uncg.edu](http://weatherspoon.uncg.edu).

**Guided + Self-Guided Visits**
School and community groups are invited to visit the museum on their own or via a docent-led tour. Admission and tours are free. Please contact us at least three weeks in advance to schedule your visit, 336.334.5770 or weatherspoon@uncg.edu.

**About the Weatherspoon Art Museum**

**Mission**
The Weatherspoon Art Museum at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro acquires, preserves, exhibits, and interprets modern and contemporary art for the benefit of its multiple audiences, including university, community, regional, and beyond. Through these activities, the museum recognizes its paramount role of public service, and enriches the lives of diverse individuals by fostering an informed appreciation and understanding of the visual arts and their relationship to the world in which we live.

**History**
The **Weatherspoon Art Museum** at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro was founded by Gregory Ivy in 1941 and is the earliest of any art facilities within the UNC system. The museum was founded as a resource for the campus, community, and region and its early leadership developed an emphasis—maintained to this day—on presenting and acquiring modern and contemporary works of art. A 1950 bequest from the renowned collection of Claribel and Etta Cone, which included prints and bronzes by Henri Matisse and other works on paper by American and European modernists, helped to establish the Weatherspoon’s permanent collection. Other prescient acquisitions during Ivy’s tenure included a 1951 suspended mobile by Alexander Calder, *Woman* by Willem de Kooning, a pivotal work in the artist’s career that was purchased in 1954, and the first drawings by Eva Hesse and Robert Smithson to enter a museum collection.

In 1989, the museum moved into its present location in The Anne and Benjamin Cone Building designed by the architectural firm Mitchell Giurgula. The museum has six galleries and a sculpture courtyard with over 17,000 square feet of exhibition space. The American Association of Museums accredited the Weatherspoon in 1995 and renewed its accreditation in 2005.

**Collections + Exhibitions**
The permanent collection of the Weatherspoon Art Museum is considered to be one of the foremost of its kind in the Southeast. It represents all major art movements from the beginning of the 20th century to the present. Of the nearly 6,000 works in the collection are pieces by such prominent figures as Sol LeWitt, Robert Mangold, Cindy Sherman, Al Held, Alex Katz, Henry Tanner, Louise Nevelson, Mark di Suvero, Deborah Butterfield, and Robert Rauschenberg. The museum regularly lends to major exhibitions nationally and internationally.
The Weatherspoon also is known for its adventurous and innovative exhibition program. Through a dynamic annual calendar of fifteen to eighteen exhibitions and a multi-disciplinary educational program for audiences of all ages, the museum provides an opportunity for audiences to consider artistic, cultural, and social issues of our time and enriches the life of our university, community, and region.

**Weatherspoon Art Museum**  
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