Exhibition Announcement

Zone of Contention: The U.S./Mexico Border
June 16 – September 2, 2012

8th Summer Solstice Fiesta + Exhibition Preview
Friday, June 15, 6:30 - 9pm

On Saturday, June 16, the Weatherspoon Art Museum at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro will open a new exhibition, Zone of Contention: The U.S./Mexico Border. The exhibition focuses on artists’ investigations of issues related to the U.S./Mexico border, a geographic area of much debate and contention. Through photography, sculpture, works on paper, video, and new media, subjects such as migrant labor, immigration law, national sovereignty, and border control will be examined in terms of their current social and ideological impact.

The exhibition features new and recent works by both U.S. and Mexican-born artists based in the U.S., Mexico, and Canada, including Andrea Bowers (Los Angeles, CA), Blane De St. Croix (New York, NY), Todd Drake (Greensboro, NC), Rafael Lozano-Hemmer (Montreal, Canada), Nicolas Lampert & Dan S. Wang (Milwaukee, WI/Chicago, IL), Pedro Lasch (lives in Durham, NC), Susan Harbage Page (Chapel Hill, NC), Pedro Reyes (Mexico City, Mexico), David Taylor (Las Cruces, NM), and Perry Vasquez/Victor Payan (San Diego, CA). The concept for the
exhibition was formed over a period of many months in dialogue with the artists, community members and UNCG faculty, and is the first in a series of exhibitions that will focus on the effects of global conflict and their impact upon Greensboro and the state of North Carolina.

In the exhibition, which will be installed in the Weatherspoon’s two first floor galleries, the physical reality of the border itself is examined through realistic sculptures of the two ends of the border by De St. Croix, and photographs documenting the border by Page and Taylor. Digital artist Lozano-Hemmer and the California duo of Vasquez/Payan offer opposing visions (one dark and menacing, the other playful and supportive) of migrants crossing the border, many to go to work or school every day. The narrative imagery of Bowers, Drake, and Lasch, reveal the different, and sometimes dire, life situations encountered by some Latinos and Hispanics living in the U.S. And recent events, such as the Supreme Court hearing concerning Arizona’s SB 1070 law and public “outings” of undocumented students to draw attention to the need for the DREAM Act (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors) are explored in works by Lampert/Wang and Drake. The exhibition aims to provide a big picture of the debate over this national border, but also to hone in on how the issues affect North Carolina.

Zone of Contention: The U.S./Mexico Border is organized by Xandra Eden, Curator of Exhibitions, and will be accompanied by a bilingual brochure. Special thanks to Diana Dau, Curatorial Intern, the Zone Team, and the Weatherspoon Art Museum Association.


Related Education and Public Programming

8th Summer Solstice Fiesta
Friday, June 15, 6:30 - 9pm
Join us for the Weatherspoon’s 8th Summer Solstice Fiesta, which celebrates North Carolina Latino and Hispanic culture! All of the Weatherspoon galleries will be open and food, beverages, fun activities and live music will ensure a lively evening in the museum’s sculpture garden. Artists and cultural leaders will be in attendance to mark the preview of the exhibition, Zone of Contention: The U.S./Mexico Border, and to take part in a tree planting ceremony at 7 pm as part of Mexican artist Pedro Reyes's Palas por Pistolas (Shovels for Guns).

Hosted by the Weatherspoon Art Museum Association. Free admission and cash bar; members receive 2 free drink tickets. Open to the public. All ages are welcome!

Tuesday, July 10, 12noon
Noon @ the ‘Spoon Tour: Zone of Contention: the U.S./Mexico Border
Noon @ the ‘Spoon features a 20-minute docent-led tour of a new exhibition. Offered every second Tuesday of the month. Free and open to the public.

Thursday, August 23, 7 pm
Film & Discussion: The Guestworker

Thursday, August 30
6pm, Exhibition Tour: Zone of Contention: the U.S./Mexico Border
Join curator Xandra Eden and participating North Carolina artists on a tour of the exhibition.
7pm, Lecture: Paul Cuadros: A Home on the Field
Award-winning investigative reporter and Assistant Professor in the School of Journalism and Mass Communications at UNC at Chapel Hill, Paul Cuadros discusses the impact of the burgeoning Latino community in North Carolina and his book, A Home on the Field: How One Championship Soccer Inspires Hope for the Revival of Small Town America (HarperCollins, 2006), an account of his three seasons coaching a predominantly Latino high school boys soccer team, which emerged against all odds poised to win the state championship.

Cuadros has focused his career on reporting on issues of race and poverty and has worked for the award-winning investigative journal The Chicago Reporter and for the Center for Public Integrity in Washington D.C. He is currently a freelance writer for Time magazine and is working on a new book about Latinos in the South. Seating is limited. Doors open 30 minutes prior. A reception follows the lecture.

For a complete, updated list of programs, visit http://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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