Exhibition Announcement

Arlene Shechet: That Time
June 15 – September 15, 2013

The Weatherspoon Art Museum at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro announces the exhibition Arlene Shechet: That Time (June 15 – September 5, 2013).

This exhibition of sculptures by Arlene Shechet offers an up-to-the-minute look at her iconoclastic approach to ceramics. Shechet favors improvisational methods and a trial-and-error process over methodical and technical facility. At once comically awkward and elegantly poised, her paradoxical forms teeter, lean, bulge, torque, and reach in multiple directions at once, defying their own weight. “In fact, often things do collapse or fall over, and many don’t make it, but I love working on that precarious edge,” she says of her process. “For me, this has obvious emotional, psychological, and philosophical meaning.”

Shechet’s latest works combine a cartoonish demeanor with painterly effects. She constantly tests glazes and uses eccentric color combinations with an experimental disregard for traditional firing temperatures and techniques. The resulting variations in hue, texture, and opacity create complex, highly visceral surfaces. Similarly diverse, the bases she makes for her sculptures cover a wide range of shapes, sizes, and materials—from roughhewn timbers to painted kiln
bricks and welded steel. Each is designed for a specific piece and is integral to its completion. Once installed, the finished works populate the space of the exhibition like so many characters, suggestive of both the imperfections and possibilities implicit in the human condition.

Artists Bio

Arlene Shechet (lives in New York City and upstate New York) earned her BA from New York University and MFA from Rhode Island School of Design. Shechet’s work has been exhibited widely, with recent solo exhibitions at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver; Tang Teaching Museum, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY; and the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Overland Park, KS. Her work is in the collections of the Whitney Museum of American Art, Brooklyn Museum, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and Walker Art Center, among many other institutions. Her numerous awards include a Guggenheim Fellowship, American Academy of Arts and Letters Award in Art, Anonymous Was A Woman Individual Artist Award, and Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters and Sculptors Grant. She is represented by Sikkema Jenkins & Co., New York, James Kelly Contemporary, Santa Fe, and Shoshana Wayne Gallery, Santa Monica.

Arlene Shechet: That Time is organized by Ashley Kistler, Director, Anderson Gallery, VCU School of the Arts, Richmond, VA.


Related Public Programs

Artist Talk & Reception
Thursday, August 29, 5:30 pm
Sculptor Arlene Shechet gives a talk on her latest work on view in Arlene Shechet: That Time at the Weatherspoon Art Museum through September 15. This talk will take place in the Museum auditorium. Seating is limited and doors open thirty minutes prior. Reception follows. Free.

Noon @ the ‘Spoon Public Tour – Arlene Shechet: That Time
Tuesday, September 10, 12 pm
Noon @ the ‘Spoon features a 20-minute docent-led tour of a new exhibition. Offered every second Tuesday of the month. Free.

For a complete, updated list of related 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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