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NEWS RELEASE

Oct. 19, 2009

Contact: UM School of Art, 406-243-4181.

UM HOSTS LECTURES BY RENOWNED VISITING ARTISTS

MISSOULA —

Three distinguished artists will speak about their work Oct. 28 and 29 and Nov. 16 at The University of Montana.

The lectures, hosted by the UM School of Art and sponsored by the Jim and Jane Dew Visiting Artist Fund and the Rudy and Lela Autio Opportunity Fund, are free and open to the public.

Kurt Weiser, noted ceramist and professor of art at Arizona State University, will speak at 5:10 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 28, in the UM ceramics studio, located in the Art Annex next to the Adams Center.

Weiser's widely experimental approach to ceramics over the course of his career has resulted in groundbreaking developments in the vessel tradition, culminating in his signature China-painted porcelain forms.

Weiser served as resident director of the Archie Bray Foundation in Helena from 1977 to 1988. His work has been acquired by many institutions around the world, including the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American Art, the National Museum of History in Taiwan, and the Museum of Contemporary Ceramic Art and the Institute of Ceramic Studies in Shigaraki, Japan.

Installation and video artist Michael Oatman will speak at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 29, in Interdisciplinary Science Building Room 110. Oatman teaches in the architecture program at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y.

Fusing the roles of librarian, archaeologist, taxonomist and artist, he makes intricately detailed collages and exhaustively researched installations focused on what he calls the “poetic interpretation of documents.” He works across disciplines and media in sites as varied as Easter Island and the New York Metropolitan Transit Authority.

Oatman’s work has been exhibited at the Tang Museum of Skidmore College in New York, the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, Williams College Museum of Art, the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum in Ridgefield, Conn., and the Phoenix Gallery and ZieherSmith in New York City.

UM Visiting Professor of Art Karina Hean will present a lecture at 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 16, in Liberal Arts Building Room 11.

Hean’s abstract organic drawings are featured in the Drawing Center’s Viewing Program, created in 1977 to offer emerging artists the opportunity to include their work in a curated Artist Registry that is consulted by a wide variety of arts professionals from across the globe.

Her works have been exhibited in numerous national and regional solo group invitational and juried exhibitions, including Zen Bennett Contemporary Art Gallery, 222 Shelby Street Gallery and the Museum of Fine Arts in Santa Fe, N.M., and the Gerald Ruben Center for the Visual Arts in El Paso, Texas.

Hean was selected for a 2008 American Artist Fellowship by the Ballinglen Art Foundation in Ireland and for several national artist residencies. She earned a master’s in fine arts degree at New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, and a bachelor’s degree in liberal arts at

St. John's College in Annapolis, Md., and has served as a visiting professor of art at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colo.

For more information, call the UM School of Art at 406-243-4181.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: An image of "Red Queen," by Kurt Weiser is attached to this news release. Images of other works by Weiser and works by Oatman and Hean are available by e-mailing UM art Professor Beth Lo at elizabeth.lo@umontana.edu.

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