

EMBRACE!

November 14, 2009-April 4, 2010

DENVER
ART MUSEUM

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Embrace! 17 Artists Take Over Libeskind's Architecture

Denver Art Museum to debut new site-specific commissions celebrating Hamilton Building



Katharina Grosse, *George*, 2009. © The artist; courtesy Denver Art Museum, (ARS), New York / VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn, 2009. Photo by Jeff Wells.

(Denver, Colo.) **October 30, 2009** — On Nov. 14, the Denver Art Museum (DAM) will present *Embrace!*, an exhibition of unique, site-specific installations in the Museum's Daniel Libeskind-designed Frederic C. Hamilton Building. Featuring 17 new works in a range of media, *Embrace!* marks one of the largest exhibitions of site-specific commissions in a U.S. museum, including never-before-seen works from Katharina Grosse, El Anatsui, Shinique Smith, Matthew Brannon, Jessica Stockholder, Lawrence Weiner and Tobias Rehberger, among others.

Working with Christoph Heinrich, DAM's incoming director and Polly and Mark Addison Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, each artist has chosen a particular space in which to realize and exhibit an individual work. With projects ranging from Katharina Grosse's four-story spray painting in the Museum's atrium to a multimedia presentation by Charles Sandison, the exhibition introduces an extraordinary dialogue between art and the building's architectural elements. *Embrace!* is organized by the Denver Art Museum and will be on view throughout the Hamilton Building Nov. 14, 2009, to April 4, 2010.

"To realize 17 new works from such a talented list of artists is quite spectacular," said Heinrich, who has been selected by the DAM board of trustees to succeed Dr. Lewis I. Sharp as Frederick and Jan Mayer Director of the Museum. "The artists worked throughout the building during the summer and fall.

Some works are still in progress, and visitors have had the opportunity to watch the artists' creative process and experience their very individual ways of embracing the unique spaces inside the Museum and communicating with the architecture."

DAM has commissioned works from an international list of artists, ranging in age from early 30s to mid-70s, with projects encompassing painting, sculpture, drawing, new media and interactive works. The full list of *Embrace!* artists includes El Anatsui (Nigeria/Ghana), Kristin Baker (U.S.), Matthew Brannon (U.S.), Rick Dula (U.S., Denver), Katharina Grosse (Germany), Christian Hahn (Germany), Nicola López (U.S.), John McEnroe (U.S., Denver), Rupprecht Matthies (Germany), Tobias Rehberger (Germany), Charles Sandison (Finland/U.K.), Dasha Shishkin (U.S./Russia), Shinique Smith (U.S.), Jessica Stockholder (U.S.), Timothy Weaver + eMAD (U.S., Denver), Lawrence Weiner (U.S.) and Zhong Biao (China).

"As we continue to explore the role of the artist in the museum setting, we have organized what promises to be an engaging and unexpected exhibition," said current DAM Director Lewis Sharp, who has announced he will retire on Dec. 31, 2009. "We are thrilled to be able to invest in the creation of these new works and bring such a diverse and important group of contemporary artists to our community."

Projects include a hyper-realistic, true-to-scale painting, created by Denver artist Rick Dula, which appears to penetrate the building and peel back the interior to expose the steel girders and underpinnings of the Hamilton Building. Renowned conceptual artist Lawrence Weiner's sculptural wall installation has been mounted on a dramatic wall atop the 120-foot El Pomar Grand Atrium. Perhaps the most visible and expansive installation, by Katharina Grosse, features airbrush painting that spans the four-story atrium and is visible from every floor.

The DAM will present programming throughout *Embrace!* designed to break down traditional barriers between the artist and visitor. The Museum engaged the artists to develop and install their work throughout the Hamilton Building beginning in August, allowing visitors the unique opportunity to participate in the art-making process and witness the creation of influential contemporary works through a set of "installation insider moments." For information on future events, sign up for the Museum's email newsletter, *Art Mail*, or follow the Denver Art Museum and Untitled on Twitter and Facebook.



Dasha Shishkin, *Dying Christ Rushed To The Hospital (You Are Going To Need My Help, Sweetheart)*, 2009. © The artist; courtesy Denver Art Museum. Photo by Jeff Wells.

Embrace! Publication

The exhibition will be accompanied by a two-volume catalogue, the first of which will include two essays on the history of installation art and the curatorial premise of *Embrace!*, as well as an introduction to each of the 17 participating artists. The second volume will document the commissions as they are realized in the Museum, from concept through installation, and the artists' perspectives on the final works. The first volume of 120 pages will be available Nov. 14; the second volume of 140 pages will be developed and produced as the works are finalized this fall.



John McEnroe, *The Bathers*, 2009. © The artist; courtesy Denver Art Museum. Photo by Jeff Wells.

Embrace! is organized by the Denver Art Museum. A special thank you to Vicki and Kent Logan and to the individual patrons of *Embrace!* who have sponsored the work of these artists. Support is provided by U.S. Bank and Accenture, the Denver Art Museum's Technology Partner. Additional funding is provided by Avana Inc., the citizens who support the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District, the generous donors to the Annual Fund Leadership Campaign, the LEF Foundation and the John G. Duncan Charitable Trust. Promotional support is provided by *The Denver Post*, CBS4 and *5280 Magazine*.

Denver Art Museum

The Denver Art Museum is located on 13th Avenue between Broadway and Bannock Streets in downtown Denver. Open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Sunday noon-5 p.m.; closed Mondays, the Fourth of July, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. Admission for Colorado residents: \$10 adults, \$8 seniors and students. Admission for non-Colorado residents: \$13 for adults, \$10 for seniors and students, \$5 for visitors aged six to 18, free for children under six. The Cultural Complex Garage is open; enter from 12th Avenue between Broadway and Bannock or check the DAM website for up-to-date parking information. For information in Spanish, call 720-913-0169. For more information, visit www.denverartmuseum.org or call 720-865-5000.