



DIRECTOR'S NOTES



We're forecasting a spectacular fall at the Fleming Museum. The exhibitions and events calendar launched by our September 25th opening reception is exemplary of the Fleming's programming mission: to highlight the best of Vermont's artistic traditions and to bring world-class art of diverse cultures to Vermont audiences.

To this end, we proudly present the first public exhibition to document a radical architectural movement that took root in the Mad River Valley in the mid-1960s. *Architectural Improvisation: A History of Vermont's Design/Build Movement 1964-1977* tells a wild story of pioneering experimentation with architectural form and process, materials, alternative energies, and co-housing. This is an experience for all ages, complete with a walk-in, architectural model/playhouse for kids.

Across the Marble Court in the Fleming's Wolcott Gallery we present *Buddha in Paradise*, Tibetan tangka paintings and sculpture on loan from the Rubin Museum in New York. To complement the exhibition, the Fleming's Marble Court will house the creation of a complex sand mandala by Tibetan Buddhist monks for a week beginning October 15. Come witness this extraordinary artistic event.



Welcoming visitors in our front lobby and Wilbur Room are representations of agricultural landscapes, both familiar and unexpected. The Fleming's foyer is the new home to *Barn Ball* by artist Lars-Erik Fisk '93, renowned for his stunningly crafted and humorous spherical sculptures. In response to *Barn Ball*, the Fleming's new curator, Aimee Marcereau DeGalan, Ph.D., has selected diverse views of the agricultural landscape through the centuries. We are delighted to welcome both our newest acquisition and our newest staff member, who joins us from the Cleveland Museum of Art.

Our scope this fall is broad and exciting and the experiences that await you promise to be memorable. Look for details in this issue of *On View*, or check us out online at www.flemingmuseum.org. Bring friends and family and expand your world!

Jamie Cohen
Janie Cohen, Director

Inside:
Buddha Manifests from Tushita Pure Land, Tibet, 19th century (detail).
Pigment on cloth. Courtesy Rubin Museum of Art

Admission:
\$5 adults, \$10 family, \$3 students and seniors. Free to Museum members; UVM, Burlington College, Champlain College, Community College of Vermont, and St. Michael's College faculty, staff, and students; and children 6 and under.

 The Fleming Museum is wheelchair accessible and provides reasonable accommodations to persons with disabilities. Please contact us in advance to arrange accommodations.


FALL RECEPTION

For Fleming Museum Members, the Academic Community & the Public

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25
5:30 – 7:30 PM

Hosted by President Daniel Mark Fogel and Rachel Kahn-Fogel

REGULAR ADMISSION
Cash Bar and Hors D'Oeuvres

Opening:

Architectural Improvisation:
A History of Vermont's Design/Build Movement
1964-1977

Buddha in Paradise:
Tibetan Art from the Rubin Museum

Stooks, Stacks, and Sheaves:
Agricultural Landscapes in America, 1850 - present



The UNIVERSITY of VERMONT'S
FLEMING MUSEUM

61 Colchester Avenue • Burlington, VT 05405
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David Sellers, Chair for Tack House, 1972. Wood, paint, metal.
Courtesy of David Sellers

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Cover:
Dimetrodon, Warren, Vermont, built 1971 (Jim Sanford, Richard Travers, William Maclay).
Photo by Jim Westphalen

The UNIVERSITY of VERMONT

ON VIEW

Exhibitions and Events | Fall 2008



The UNIVERSITY of VERMONT'S
FLEMING MUSEUM

FALL CALENDAR 2008

SEPTEMBER 2 EXHIBITION OPENS *Stooks, Stacks, and Sheaves: Agricultural Landscapes in America, 1850 - Present*
10 STUDENT RECEPTION featuring Lars-Erik Fisk's *Barn Ball*, 5:00-7:00 PM **16** EXHIBITION OPENS *Buddha in Paradise: Tibetan Art*
 from the Rubin Museum **17** NOONTIME CAFÉ AND PROGRAM *Myths and Metaphors of the Agricultural Landscape*. Aimee Marcereau DeGalan,
 12:15 PM **24** POETRY SERIES Jean Connor and Gary Margolies, 6:00-7:30 PM **25** OPENING RECEPTION *Architectural Improvisation: A*
History of Vermont's Design/Build Movement 1964-1977; Buddha in Paradise: Tibetan Art from the Rubin Museum; and Stooks, Stacks and Sheaves:
Agricultural Landscapes in America, 1850 - present, 5:30-7:30 PM **28** FILM *Mystic Vision, Sacred Art* (28 min.), 3:00 PM

OCTOBER 1 NOONTIME CAFÉ AND PROGRAM *Sacred Visions: The Art of Tibet*. Jim Hagan, 12:15 PM **2** ARTIST'S TALK
Design/Build - So What and Why Now. David Sellers, 6:30 PM **5** GALLERY TOUR *Architectural Improvisation*, 3:00 PM **7** ARTIST'S
 TALK *Art and Survival: The Environmental Projects*. Patricia Johanson, 5:30 PM **12** FILM *Mystic Vision, Sacred Art* (28 min.), 3:00 PM
15-22 SPECIAL EVENT *Creation of a Tibetan Sand Mandala* **19** GALLERY TOUR *Architectural Improvisation*, 3:00 PM
26 FILM *Mystic Vision, Sacred Art* (28 min.), 3:00 PM **29** NOONTIME CAFÉ AND PROGRAM *Architectural Improvisation: History and*
Lineage. Danny Sagan, 12:15 PM **29** POETRY SERIES Gail Mazur and Adrie Kusserow, 6:00-7:30 PM

NOVEMBER 2 PANEL DISCUSSION, *Origins and Evolution of the Design/Build Tradition in Vermont*, 1:30 - 3:00 PM
9 FILM *Mystic Vision, Sacred Art* (28 min.), 3:00 PM **12** NOONTIME CAFÉ AND PROGRAM *China-Tibet Relations*. Ken Bauer, 12:15 PM
16 GALLERY TOUR *Architectural Improvisation*, 3:00 PM

DECEMBER 3 NOONTIME CAFÉ AND PROGRAM *Seeking the Good Life: Vermont's Rural Resettlement in the Twentieth Century*.
 Kevin Dann, 12:15 PM **3** POETRY SERIES Angela Patten and Daniel Lusk, 6:00-7:30 PM **6** FAMILY PROGRAM *The Prickly Mountain*
Gang, 1:00-4:00 PM **7** FILM *Mystic Vision, Sacred Art* (28 min.), 3:00 PM **14** GALLERY TOUR *Architectural Improvisation*, 3:00 PM

Museum Hours:

Labor Day - April 30: Tues., Thurs. & Friday, 9 AM - 4 PM / Wed., 9 AM - 8 PM / Sat. & Sun., 1 - 5 PM
 May 1 - August 31: Tuesday - Friday, Noon - 4 PM / Saturday & Sunday, 1 - 5 PM

Museum Galleries Closed Mondays and Major Holiday Weekends: Thanksgiving Week, November 24 -
 December 1; UVM Winter Recess, December 20 - January 12

Directions and Parking:

Parking is available in the visitor lot located between the Museum and Fletcher Allen Health Care. Additional parking information and directions are available on our web site, www.flemingmuseum.org; in the Museum brochure; or by calling our information line at 656-2090.

NEW EXHIBITIONS

**Architectural Improvisation:
 A History of Vermont's Design/Build Movement 1964-1977**
 SEPTEMBER 24 - DECEMBER 19, 2008



Sibley Pyramid House, Warren, Vermont, built 1967 (William Reineke and David Sellers). Photo by Jim Westphalen

Architectural Improvisation: A History of Vermont's Design/Build Movement 1964-1977 documents a radical, Vermont-based architectural movement characterized by organic forms, improvisational processes, hands-on methods, and natural materials. Predating the back-to-the-land movement but motivated by similar values and principles, the Design/Build movement focused on a new mediatory role for architecture both in creating community and in the then-newly charged relationship between humans and the environment. A number of the documented projects from the mid-1960s pioneered technological and social experimentation such as solar heating, wind power, and co-housing.

Guest-curated by Norwich University architecture professor Danny Sagan, the exhibition traces the development of the Design/Build movement from its roots in Bauhaus theory at Yale School of Architecture in the early 1960s to its radical social, technological, and

aesthetic experimentation. It examines the work of a group of young architects who moved to Vermont from Yale and the University of Pennsylvania Architecture program in the mid-1960s, among them, David Sellers, Bill Reineke, Jim Sanford, Bill Maclay, Ellen Strauss, Charles Hosford, John Mallary, and Barry Simpson. The exhibition documents for the first time the exemplary Vermont projects created by these architects, including Sibley/Pyramid House, Tack House, and Dimetrodon on "Prickly Mountain" in Warren, Vermont; Goddard College in Plainfield; and the Anthos housing project in Waitsfield; as well as Skidompha House in Maine. It presents previously unpublished photographs and drawings, contemporary photographs, artifacts from the houses, and other documentary materials that reflect both the process and the resulting structures. An accompanying catalogue will be published by the University of Vermont Press.

Support for this exhibition has been generously provided by the Kalkin Family Exhibitions Endowment Fund, NRG Systems, the University of Vermont's College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences, the 1675 Foundation, the Graham



College of Engineering + Mathematical Sciences
 UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

Foundation, Truex Cullins & Partners, the Walter Cerf Exhibitions Fund, Richard Weintraub and Meredith Ullman Weintraub, and the University of Vermont's Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources. In-kind support has been provided by Small Dog Electronics.

Buddha in Paradise: Tibetan Art from the Rubin Museum
 SEPTEMBER 16 - DECEMBER 19, 2008

In Tibetan Buddhism, paradise is conceptualized as multiple perfect realms called "Pure Lands," which are distinct from the world we know and where enlightenment can be quickly attained. Rather than a monolithic understanding of paradise, Tibetan Buddhism embraces different approaches and teachings about these lands and how to reach them, the most radical of which is the realization that paradise is all around us if we are able to perceive it. This exhibition of paintings and sculpture from the Rubin Museum examines the different "Pure Lands" and the underlying philosophical beliefs by which they are defined. Richly colored and detailed paintings depict "The Wheel of Becoming," a map of Shambhala, and Buddha and the goddess Tara in the various "Pure Lands" they inhabit. This selection of tangka paintings and exquisite sculpture ranging from the 13th through the 20th century illustrate ideas and beliefs that have endured for thousands of years.



Buddha Amitabha in His Pure Land, Central Tibet, 19th century (detail). Pigment on cloth. Courtesy Rubin Museum of Art.

Mandala Sand Painting
 OCTOBER 15 - 22

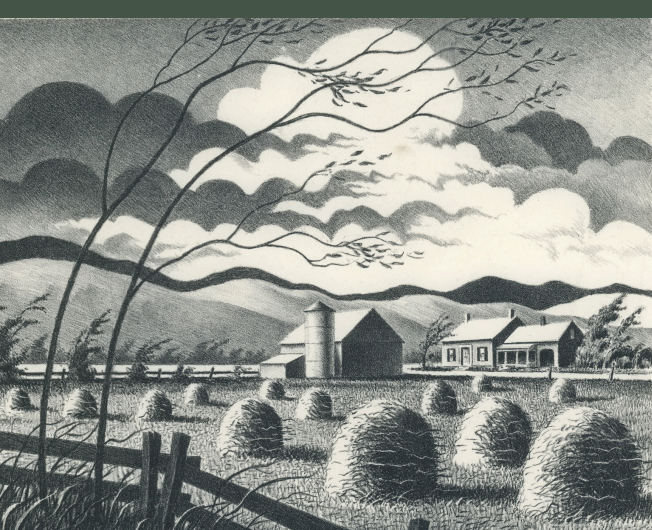
Over a period of one week, Tibetan Buddhist monks from the Namgyal Monastery will meticulously create a mandala — a circular painting made from colored grains of sand representing the sacred universe — in the Museum's Marble Court. Upon completion, the mandala will be cast into a body of water, in a gesture that symbolizes the impermanence of existence and the ideal of non-attachment to the material world. The public can watch the construction of the mandala during Museum hours, and is invited to join us for the dismantling of the mandala in the Marble Court on Wednesday, October 22 at 5 pm.



Courtesy Namgyal Monastery

Stooks, Stacks, and Sheaves: Agricultural Landscapes in America, 1850 - present
 SEPTEMBER 2 - DECEMBER 19, 2008

Images of the agricultural landscape, including stooks of grain, stacks of hay, and sheaves of wheat, generate highly individual responses depending on one's perception of the land. In the mid-1800s, painters and poets found the agricultural landscape a subject capable of expressing the nation's hopes and aspirations for progress and a symbol for American freedom, democracy, and wealth. These views of the land frequently evoke a nostalgic vision of an earlier time of greater social harmony and stability in a pre-industrial un-polluted world. With the shift from hand-harvesting methods to mechanization, and the increasing costs of farming and accelerated development, the agricultural landscape has been transformed, challenging our associations of rural life.



Edward M. Sanborn (American 1891 - 1975), Winooski Valley Storm, c. 1930, Lithograph. Gift of Modern Etchers Group W. Wakeham 2008.25

Stooks, Stacks, and Sheaves: Agricultural Landscapes in America, 1850 - present explores the artistic, cultural, and literary response to the changing representations of the agricultural landscape. The exhibition includes works drawn from the Fleming's collections, the University of Vermont's Special Collections, and generous lenders.

NEW TO THE COLLECTION

The Fleming Museum is delighted to announce its recent acquisition of *Barn Ball*, by Lars-Erik Fisk '93. *Barn Ball* represents one of the most common landscape — a red barn — which Fisk humorously packages in a sphere form and reduces to its most salient and distinctive features: red clapboard, white windows, fieldstone, and hay.

Lars-Erik Fisk, (American, b. 1970), *Barn Ball*, 1998/2008. Wood, paint, glass, stone, sisal. Gift of Betsy S. Wakeman 2008.5



NOONTIME CAFÉ AND PROGRAMS

Programs begin at 12:15 PM on the Wednesdays listed below. Lunch is available for purchase in the Museum's lobby from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM.

Myths and Metaphors of the Agricultural Landscape
 SEPTEMBER 17

Aimee Marcereau DeGalan, Curator of Collections and Exhibitions, Fleming Museum

Sacred Visions: The Art of Tibet
 OCTOBER 1

Jim Hagan, Adjunct Professor, Dept. of Philosophy, Castleton State College

Architectural Improvisation: History and Lineage
 OCTOBER 29

Danny Sagan, guest curator of Architectural Improvisations; and Assistant Professor, Dept. of Architecture, Norwich University

China-Tibet Relations
 NOVEMBER 12

Ken Bauer, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Community Development and Applied Economics, UVM

Seeking the Good Life: Vermont's Rural Resettlement in the Twentieth Century
 DECEMBER 3

Kevin Dann GA'85, Dept. of History, SUNY Plattsburgh

POETRY SERIES

The Fleming Museum presents a poetry series hosted by Major Jackson, associate professor, UVM Dept. of English. This reading series highlights established and emergent New England poets.

The Painted Word
 WEDNESDAYS, 6:00 - 7:30 PM

6:00-6:30 Music
 6:30-7:30 Readings

SEPTEMBER 24:
 Jean Connor and Gary Margolies

OCTOBER 29:
 Gail Mazur and Adrie Kusserow

DECEMBER 3:
 Angela Patten and Daniel Lusk

Co-sponsored by UVM's English Department and funded in part by the James and Mary Buckham Fund.

ARTISTS' TALKS

Design/Build - So What and Why Now
 THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 6:30 PM
 David Sellers

Art and Survival: The Environmental Projects
 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 5:30 PM
 Patricia Johanson

Co-sponsored by UVM's Environmental Program. Additional sponsors include UVM's Department of Art and Art History; the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources; the Dept. of Plant and Soil Science; and the Gund Institute of Ecological Economics Ecological Design Certificate Program

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Origins and Evolution of the Design/Build Tradition in Vermont
 SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1:30-3:00 PM

Join us for a panel discussion with several of the original architects and residents of an early, experimental, solar co-housing complex in Warren, Vermont, as they discuss and debate the genesis and legacy of the Design/Build tradition in Vermont.

Tour Prickly Mountain

Tour original homes built during the exciting period of Vermont's burgeoning Design/Build movement in the 1960s and 70s. Danny Sagan, guest curator of Architectural Improvisation, will serve as guide as we view and visit several structures that used pioneering green building practices in their unconventional construction. A reception at the home of architect David Sellers will follow. To register or for more information, please call the Museum at 656-0750.

FILM

Mystic Vision, Sacred Art
 This film is an excellent introduction to the art of tangka, devotional paintings used in Buddhist ritual practice. (28 min.)
 SUNDAYS AT 3:00 PM
 SEPT. 28; OCT. 12, 26; NOV. 9; & DEC. 7

GALLERY TOURS

Architectural Improvisation
 SUNDAYS AT 3:00 PM
 OCT. 5, 19; NOV. 16; & DEC. 14

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Art Adventures
 WEDNESDAYS, 3:30 - 5:00 PM

Ages 6-8: Sept. 10, 17, 24
 Oct. 1, 8, and 15
 Ages 9-11: Oct. 22, 29
 Nov. 5, 12, 19
 and Dec. 3

Fee: Museum Family Members \$35; General \$50

Art classes at the Fleming Museum provide an exciting opportunity for children to explore the Museum's collection, experiment with art materials, and create their own works of art inspired by the galleries.

The Prickly Mountain Gang
 SATURDAY, DEC. 6, 1:00 - 4:00 PM

Regular admission at the door; free with Museum Family Membership.