



## DIRECTOR'S NOTES



Janie Cohen, Director

All nonprofit organizations, whether their focus is artistic, educational, or humanitarian, depend upon philanthropy in order to advance their support of the public good. Over the past few years, the Fleming has been the beneficiary of generous philanthropic gifts, unprecedented in the history of the Museum. Joan and Eugene Kalkin '50 established the Kalkin Family Exhibitions Endowment during the University's recent Campaign; another major donor and Fleming Board member, David Spector, has made the Fleming part of his estate plans with an endowment and an annuity bequest, for exhibitions and a distinguished lecture series, respectively.

One year ago, a new donor approached the Fleming, Dr. Burnett Rawson '37, MD'39, with a deep interest in museum education. With his recent move back to Vermont, Dr. Rawson felt a strong desire to give back to his alma mater, and, in so doing, to honor his late wife, Jessie Rawson, who was passionate about the arts. Dr. Rawson's wish is to encourage Vermont schoolchildren to experience the art of different cultures. Over the past year, his gifts have helped to underwrite the Fleming's diverse K-12 education programs and family programs. We are deeply grateful to these generous patrons for their exceptional gifts.

This spring, the Fleming is excited to launch our Open Late to 8 on Wednesday nights, beginning January 16. To inaugurate our new extended hours, we will present a series of poetry readings with music in the Fleming's new coffee lounge, organized by UVM's celebrated young poet Major Jackson and co-sponsored by UVM's Department of English. On tap this spring are a number of other special programs that will interest audiences of all ages. Don't miss them!

We are pleased to present two artist's projects at the Fleming this semester: Michael Light: 100 Suns, and Between Soft Machines and Hard Science by David Powell. Both are unique opportunities to focus on a specific subject through an artistic perspective, in Light's case, the subject is America's nuclear age, and in Powell's case, the history of science. In our Wolcott Gallery, we present the Fleming's collection of Sri Lankan masks.

There's much to experience at the Fleming this spring: music, poetry, science, and, of course, encounters with art from around the world. We look forward to seeing you!

## SPRING RECEPTION

For Fleming Museum Members, the Academic Community & the Public

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31  
5:30 – 7:30 PM

PRE-OPENING CURATORIAL TOUR  
with 100 Suns artist Michael Light

For Museum members at the Contributing level and up

4:45 PM

Funded by the Fleming Museum Board of Advisors  
Contemporary Projects Fund.

Opening:

Michael Light: 100 Suns

Between Soft Machines and Hard Science:  
The Interstitial Art of W. David Powell

Actors and Exorcists: Masks of Sri Lanka

REGULAR ADMISSION  
Cash Bar and Hors D'Oeuvres



The UNIVERSITY of VERMONT'S

**FLEMING MUSEUM**

www.flemingmuseum.org

### STAFF

Janie Cohen, Director  
Chris Dissinger, Public Relations and Marketing Manager  
Christina Fearon, Curator of Education and Public Programs  
Stephanie Glock, Financial Manager  
Kristen Kilbashian, Administrative Assistant / Events Coordinator  
Perry Price, Exhibition Designer and Preparator  
Margaret Tamulonis, Manager of Collections and Exhibitions

RIGHT: Mask, late 19th c., Sri Lanka (Ceylon). Wood, paint.  
Gift of Joseph Winterbotham 1934.7.21

INSIDE: W. David Powell, Mapping Mankind, 2006 (detail)  
Digital Print. Courtesy of the artist.

### BOARD OF ADVISORS

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**FLEMING MUSEUM**

www.flemingmuseum.org

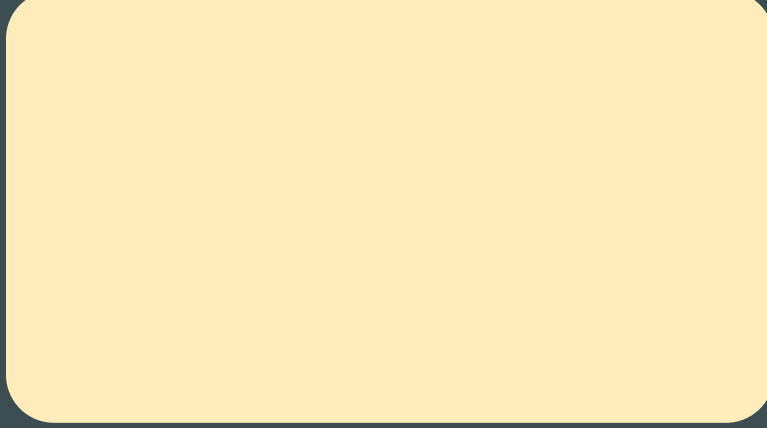
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NEW EXPANDED HOURS:  
Fleming Museum will be open Wednesday evenings until 8:00 PM.

MAIL TO:



COVER:  
Michael Light, Oak, 8.9 Megatons, Enewetak Atoll, 1958, 2003. Pigment prints  
on aluminum. Courtesy the artist and Hosfelt Gallery, San Francisco/New York.

The UNIVERSITY  
of VERMONT

# ONVIEW

Exhibitions and Events | Spring 2008



# SPRING CALENDAR 2008

JANUARY 15 EXHIBITIONS OPEN *Between Soft Machines and Hard Science: The Interstitial Art of W.*

David Powell and *Actors and Exorcists: Masks of Sri Lanka* 18 SPECIAL GALLERY TOUR with Jason Moran, 6:00 PM

31 PRE-OPENING CURATORIAL TOUR with 100 Suns artist Michael Light, (for Museum members at the Contributing level and up) 4:45 PM 31 OPENING RECEPTION Michael Light: 100 Suns, *Between Soft Machines and Hard Science:*

*The Interstitial Art of W.* David Powell and *Actors and Exorcists: Masks of Sri Lanka*, 5:30-7:30 PM

FEBRUARY 20 NOONTIME CAFÉ AND PROGRAM "...but is it science?" David Powell, 12:15 PM

27 POETRY SERIES Stephen Cramer and Paige Ackerson-Kiely, 6:00-7:30 PM

MARCH 1 FAMILY PROGRAM *Pictures Come to Life*. Jeff Hopkins, 1:30 and 3:00 PM 5 NOONTIME CAFÉ

AND PROGRAM *The Bomb, the Cold War, and American Faith in Science*. Nicole Phelps, 12:15 PM 19 NOONTIME

CAFÉ AND PROGRAM *Ritual Representations: Some Reflections on Masks and Healing Rites in Sri Lanka*. Kevin Trainor,

12:15 PM 19 SPECIAL LECTURE *Pharaohs of the Sun: Akhenaten, Nefertiti, Tutankhamen*. Rita E. Freed, 6:00 PM

26 POETRY SERIES Wyn Cooper and Karla Van Vliet, 6:00-7:30 PM

APRIL 2 NOONTIME CAFÉ AND PROGRAM *Mind-Body Meridians and Medicine*. Dana Walrath, 12:15 PM

5 FAMILY PROGRAM *Masks of Sri Lanka*. 1:00 PM 25-27 OPEN HOUSE WEEKEND Regular Hours,

complimentary admission 30 POETRY SERIES Karin Gottshall and Elizabeth Powell, 6:00-7:30 PM

## Museum Hours:

Labor Day – May 4: Tues., Thurs. & Friday, 9 AM – 4 PM / Wed., 9 AM – 8 PM / Sat. & Sun., 1 – 5 PM  
May 6 – August 29: Tuesday – Friday, Noon – 4 PM / Saturday & Sunday, 1 – 5 PM

**Museum Galleries Closed Mondays and Major Holiday Weekends:** President's Day Weekend, February 16-18; UVM Spring Recess, March 8-16

## 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, in the Museum brochure, or at 656-2090.



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



## NEW EXHIBITIONS



Michael Light, *Dog, 81 Kilotons, Enewetak Atoll, 1951-2003 (detail)*. Pigment print on aluminum. Courtesy the artist and Hostfelt Gallery, San Francisco/New York.

### Michael Light: 100 Suns

JANUARY 31 – JUNE 1, 2008

"Brighter than the light of a thousand suns, now I am become death, the destroyer." Robert Oppenheimer, "father" of the atomic bomb, recited these lines from the ancient Hindu text of the Bhagavad-Gita upon seeing the first nuclear detonation in 1945. In the exhibition *100 Suns*, San Francisco photographer Michael Light has brought together photographs of atomic explosions carried out by the United States in the 1950s and 1960s over Nevada and in the Pacific Ocean.

All of the images in this exhibition were originally taken by anonymous government photographers, many of whom belonged to the 1352<sup>nd</sup> Photographic Group of the US Air Force, which was based at the Lookout Mountain Air Force Station in Hollywood, California. By re-photographing and presenting these images in exhibition format, Light sets out to explore the cultural context of the photographs and to examine the nuclear landscape and its profound effect on both our past and our future.

As a landscape photographer, Light explores the traditional subjects of the beautiful, the sublime, and the awe-inspiring force of nature. The man-made nuclear landscape, as he makes clear, surpasses nature in its violence. These images range from stunning, abstract impressions of fire and energy to portrayals of people watching the blasts who seem blithely unaware of the destructive power they are witnessing. It is this dichotomy of beauty and horror, attraction and repulsion, violence and seduction that make this collection of images so compelling.



W. David Powell, *Contemporary Celebrity Phrenology for the People*, 2007 (detail). Digital Print. Courtesy of the artist.

devices from both obsolete and contemporary scientific sources, Powell's installation invites us to re-evaluate our understanding of how the human body and mind interact, and the ways that art and science can clarify or confuse that understanding. The juxtaposition of the prints and artifacts invites viewers to make thought-provoking correlations in an exhibition that provides more questions than answers about our notions of mind and body.

### *Between Soft Machines and Hard Science: The Interstitial Art of W. David Powell*

JANUARY 15 – JUNE 8, 2008

Both artists and scientists have portrayed and mapped the human body and sought levels of meaning in those images. Artist W. David Powell's installation of his digital prints alongside historic scientific instruments reflects his fascination with the human mind and body and our own relationships with science and healing. Powell's prints play off the scientific beliefs of both the Eastern and Western worlds, from phrenology, a theory that claimed to determine character based on the shape of the skull, to the use of electrical currents to cure disease. Incorporating charts and



Mask, late 19th c., Sri Lanka (Ceylon). Wood Paint. Gift of Henry LeGrand Cannon 1898.1.126

### *Actors and Exorcists: Masks of Sri Lanka*

JANUARY 15 – JUNE 8, 2008

In the exorcism dance rituals and folk plays of Sri Lanka, devils, animals, and humans are represented by elaborately carved and painted masks. Southern Sri Lanka's rich cultural heritage includes two dances that use masks: the thovil, or exorcism dances, in which masked demons drive illness and misfortune away, and the kolam folk drama, a community entertainment traditionally for centuries. The kolam performance, generally held once a year, was a gift from the God of Curiosity, who left both the masks and a book with the outline of the play for its celebrants to discover; outdoor performances would last all night. Sri Lankan cosmology includes a combination of Hindu and Buddhist deities and practices; while the Buddha has gained liberation from samsara, the endless cycle of rebirth, he symbolically reigns supreme over all beings, including a multitude of deities who reside in a series of sublime realms and a myriad of malevolent demons who cause sickness and misfortune in the human realm. Demon masks represent specific illnesses and embody ailments from bad dreams to plague to paralysis. In thovil dances, actors, dancers, exorcists, and musicians work together to heal the community and rid it of evil influences. In sharp contrast to the thovil, the kolam folk drama includes anecdotes and jokes and stories performed by masked dancers. The masks in the Museum's collection were acquired in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and include animals, village characters, and supernatural beings.

Exhibitions generously supported by the Kalkin Family Exhibitions Endowment Fund, the 1675 Foundation, and the Walter Cerf Exhibitions Fund.

## SPECIAL GALLERY TOUR



Photo: Clay Patrick McBride

### Jason Moran

JANUARY 18, 2008, 6:00 PM

Jason Moran, named "today's most provocative thinker in jazz" by Rolling Stone magazine, is known as a brilliant pianist/composer and adventurous collaborator with visual artists. He will be a special guest at the Fleming Museum, made possible through his residency with the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts. Moran, a pianist and charismatic educator as well as performer, will explore works of his choice in the Fleming galleries and talk about Milestone—his groundbreaking project with the visual and conceptual artist Adrian Piper—which he will perform at the Flynn on Saturday, January 19, at 8 pm.

## OPEN LATE TO 8

Beginning January 16, the Fleming Museum will be open every Wednesday evening until 8:00 PM. **New!**

## NOONTIME CAFÉ AND PROGRAMS

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

"...but is it science?"

FEBRUARY 20

David Powell, Assistant Professor, SUNY Plattsburgh Dept. of Art

*The Bomb, the Cold War, and American Faith in Science*

MARCH 5

Nicole Phelps, Assistant Professor, UVM Dept. of History

*Ritual Representations: Some Reflections on Masks and Healing Rites in Sri Lanka*

MARCH 19

Kevin Trainor, Associate Professor, UVM Dept. of Religion

*Mind-Body Meridians and Medicine*

APRIL 2

Dana Walrath, Research Assistant Professor, UVM College of Medicine

## 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 whose work represents significant explorations into language, song, and art.

*The Painted Word*

WEDNESDAYS, 6:00 – 7:30 PM

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

FEBRUARY 27:

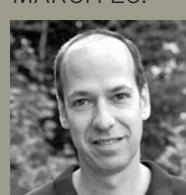


Stephen Cramer



Paige Ackerson-Kiely

MARCH 26:



Wyn Cooper



Karla Van Vliet

APRIL 30:



Karin Gottshall



Elizabeth Powell

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

## SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Jason Moran

FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, 8:00 PM

See information, below left.

*Pharaohs of the Sun: Akhenaten, Nefertiti, Tutankhamen*

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 6:00 PM

Dr. Rita E. Freed, John F. Cogan, Jr. and Mary L. Cornille Chair, Art of the Ancient World, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

Generously underwritten by David Spector '56.

## KIDS AND FAMILIES

*Pictures Come to Life*

SATURDAY, MARCH 1

1:30 AND 3:00 PM

\$5 ticket includes admission to the Museum

*Enter a story through the world of pictures!*

Pictures come to life as artist and storyteller Jeff Hopkins tells tales for children and families by quickly sketching, narrating, and acting out the movements of characters based on art in the Fleming's galleries. In this interactive performance, Jeff draws on wall-sized sheets of mural paper, creating large-scale images that change and develop as the story unfolds, while the audience adds to the fun by supplying voices and sound effects.

*Masks of Sri Lanka*

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 1:00 - 4:00 PM

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

Enjoy a delightful afternoon exploring the fascinating mask traditions of Sri Lanka. Kids and parents alike will be captivated by the details of the intricate masks on display. Art activities will include creating a mask, making colorful kolam designs, and a treasure hunt.

Family programs generously underwritten by Dr. Burnett Rawson '37, MD '39.

## OPEN HOUSE WEEKEND

FRIDAY, SATURDAY, AND SUNDAY

APRIL 25, 26, & 27

Regular Hours, Complimentary Admission