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Re-Imagining Gender

U-M Art Exhibition Showcases New Understandings

Meet the Artists
Thursday, January 15, 4:00-6:00 PM

Ann Arbor, Michigan – The University of Michigan’s Institute for Research on Women and Gender celebrates its 20th anniversary with a unique juried art competition that challenges artists to “re-image gender.”

“Re-imagining Gender,” on display at the Lane Hall Gallery starting January 15, 2015, features the work of 15 promising, young artists who take on one of the thorniest challenges facing contemporary art: how to render the modern spectrum of gender, going beyond the simple male/female binary to include a wide variety of identities and sexualities. New perspectives on gender will be a dominant theme of 21st-century art.

The result is an exhibition of 17 works in a variety of media, including photography, paint, lithograph, mixed media, and video, which reflect new understandings of gender. Some re-imagine classic images like Manet’s “Olympia” and Grant Woods’s “American Gothic,” while others use novel means—fungi, maps, challenging postures—to capture their startling visions. Some works reveal ambivalence, while others embrace exciting possibilities.

The participating artists, chosen through a competition that was open to MFA students throughout the State of Michigan as well as CIC institutions (Big 10, plus the University of Chicago), represent schools as far east as Rutgers University and as far west as the University of Nebraska.

The distinguished jury includes: Prof. Matthew Biro, chair, U-M History of Art Department; John Gutoskey, artist, designer, and recent U-M MFA; Amanda Krugliak, artist and curator, U-M Institute for the Humanities Gallery; Mark Nielsen (jury chair), director of exhibitions, UM Stamps School of Art & Design Slusser and Work galleries; and Greg Tom, gallery programs director, Art Department, Eastern Michigan University.

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Mishka Colombo (Cranbrook Academy of Art, Michigan) won the $1000 First Prize for his painting, “Hide and Seek.” Julie Rae Powers (Ohio State) won the $500 second prize for her digital photograph, “Queer Appalachia.” Evin Dubois (Illinois, Urbana-Champaign) won Honorable Mention for a hand-embroidered found object, “Amorous,” as did Erin Hayden (Northwestern) for her painting, “Ever After.” Each Honorable Mention winner received $300. “Oriental Woman with Gun,” a print by Alisa Yang, represents the University of Michigan’s contribution to the show.

Learn more at Facebook https://www.facebook.com/UMichIRWG and Twitter #RIGender.

“Re-imaging Gender” is on display at the Lane Hall Gallery, a space shared by IRWG and the U-M Department of Women’s Studies, for a six-month period, beginning Thursday, January 15, 2015, ending Friday, June 26, 2015. The opening reception takes place, Thursday, January 15, 2015, from 4:00 PM-6:00 PM. The top winning artists and jury members will be available to discuss the work.

The Lane Hall Gallery, located at 204 S. State Street and Washington, next door to Savas Restaurant, is open Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM-5:00 PM.

About IRWG. The Institute for Research on Women and Gender was established in 1995 to stimulate, coordinate, and support research and other creative activities by U-M faculty members and graduate students who use the lens of women, gender, and sexuality to further their work. IRWG offers direct funding, extramural guidance, and special events, with an emphasis on innovative, interdisciplinary projects where intersections of race, ethnicity, class, and nation are central to the analysis.

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