

Mint Museums in Charlotte, NC, Features Works by Herb Cohen & an Exhibition of American Art Tile

The Mint Museums in Charlotte, NC, will present several new exhibits including: *Sophisticated Surfaces: The Pottery of Herb Cohen*, on view in the Randolph facility, from Apr. 7 through Jan. 6, 2013; *The American Art Tile*, on view in the Randolph facility, from Apr. 7 through Jan. 6, 2013; and *Matthew Weinstein*, on view in the Uptown facility, from Apr. 28 through Aug. 19, 2012.

Organized as part of the Mint's celebration of its 75th anniversary, this exhibition focuses on the ceramic creations of Herb Cohen, a master potter and seminal figure in the museum's own history. *Sophisticated Surfaces: The Pottery of Herb Cohen* brings together approximately 60 works, including selections from the Mint's permanent collection and loans from numerous private collections. Many of Cohen's works feature intricate, abstract patterns carved into the clay surface, along with innovative experiments in glazing, which harmoniously blend purity of form with sophisticated surface decoration. Following the evolution of his seven-decade-long career as an award-winning potter, this exhibition demonstrates in a variety of forms that range from the functional to the sculptural the inimitable skill and style for which Cohen has become known.

Born in Manhattan, Cohen first learned to throw on the potter's wheel at the remarkably young age of 6, a craft he has continued to practice throughout his life. After earning his MFA from the prestigious New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University, Cohen worked as a designer for Hyalyn Porcelain Company in Hickory, NC. He eventually settled in Charlotte in the late 1950s, where he joined the staff of The Mint Museum and served as its acting director from 1968 to 1969. In the 1970s he moved to Blowing Rock, NC, to establish his own studio, but returned to Charlotte in 2010, where he remains active in the local arts community.

The popularity of art tiles for embellishing American architectural settings dates to the 1876 Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia. For the remainder of the nineteenth century, many middle-class and wealthy consumers incorporated the latest fashions of art tiles in their homes. Mass-produced tiles with refined details often featured famous portraits or vignettes. By the turn of the century, trends shifted to favor the handmade aesthetic of the Arts & Crafts Movement. American art

tile companies enjoyed success for about 50 years, until the Great Depression and World War II forced many out of business.

The Mint Museum will present approximately 40 tiles from its permanent collection in the American Decorative Arts Gallery, including the permanently installed fireplace surround, *Arkansas Traveler*, modeled and designed circa 1916 by Henry Chapman Mercer of Moravian Pottery & Tile Works, Doylestown, Pennsylvania.

Matthew Weinstein, a visual artist currently living and working in Brooklyn, NY, has achieved notoriety in the art world as the first artist to focus exclusively on 3D animation. Beginning with a self-written dialogue or lyrics, Weinstein uses musical scores and written text to develop characters which he then renders by means of the animation program MAYA. Weinstein then casts actors to vocalize the dialogue, and musicians to create an auditory backdrop for the already visually-developed environments.

Using precision airbrush techniques and single-hair paintbrushes, Weinstein also creates paintings, essentially abstractions of his animated worlds. These paintings accompany the digital installations and enable the artist to explore the often-tenuous boundary between the real and the virtual in contemporary culture.

The Charlotte Symphony Orchestra commissioned Weinstein to create a digital accompaniment to debut with their performance of Maurice Ravel's *Bolero* on May 4, 2012. The Mint Museum has organized a spotlight exhibition of Weinstein's art, including four paintings and two videos. *Weinstein's Chariots of the Gods* features a mechanized female koi, voiced by Tony-award winning actress Natasha Richardson, who dangles from a golden chain in an empty restaurant. While she seems to carelessly meander through her environment with a smiling disposition, she offers discourse on such weighty subjects as the future, devolution, technology, aliens, and the impossibility of progress. A second video, *Cruising 1980*, is an homage to writer-director William Friedkin's iconic film "Cruising" (1980). This exhibition is organized by The Mint Museum.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museums at 704/337-2000 or visit (www.mintmuseum.org).



SHAIN A GALLERY THAT THINKS IT'S A MUSEUM
GALLERY Voted Best of the Best 2011 . . . again

2823 SELWYN AVE CHARLOTTE NC 28209 SHAINGALLERY.COM SHAINART@EARTHLINK.NET



Hans Hartung, *T-1956-22*, 1956, oil on canvas, 64 7/8 x 41 7/8 x 1 3/8 inches, Bechtler Museum of Modern Art. © 2012 Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York / ADAGP, Paris

"In thinking about this as a particular moment, the works in this exhibition exist simultaneously on two levels: as visual art expressions of an era and as expressions of what contemporary art was in 1957," said John Boyer, Bechtler Museum of Modern Art President and CEO. "This exhibition is an analysis of one moment across styles, across artists, across media – all of it captured under the umbrella of the Bechtlers' interests."

The Museum will also offer several related programs in conjunction with the exhibit including:

On April 29, the Bechtler Ensemble will perform works composed in the late 1950s by Bernstein, Bloch and Shostakovich. Artwork from the *Mid-Century Modernism* exhibition will be the focus of discussion. A cash-bar reception begins at 5pm and the performance begins at 5:30. Tickets are \$15 for museum members, \$20 for non-members. Purchase tickets online at (www.bechtler.org), by phone at 704/353-9200 or at the visitor services desk.

On June 1, the popular Jazz at the Bechtler series presents *The Year in Jazz/1957*. The concert takes place 6 to 8pm in the museum lobby and is free with museum admission. Purchase tickets online at (www.bechtler.org), by phone at 704/353-9200 or at the visitor services desk. Space is limited. Museum galleries are open until 9pm.

On June 16, the Bechtler presents Family Day. Kids of all ages can experiment with methods and materials addressed in the exhibition *Mid-Century Modernism: 1957 and the Bechtler Collection*. Hands-on art activities and tours will be held throughout the museum from noon to 4:30pm. Admission is free for those under 18 years old; all others receive a discounted ticket price of \$4.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 704/353-9200 or visit (www.bechtler.org).

Bechtler Museum of Modern Art in Charlotte, NC, Offers Works from 1957

The Bechtler Museum of Modern Art in Charlotte, NC, is presenting the exhibit, *Mid-Century Modernism: 1957 and the Bechtler Collection*, on view through Aug. 27, 2012. The exhibition features works in all media drawn exclusively from the museum's permanent collection that focus on 1957, the height of the Bechtler family's art acquisitions.



Jean-Paul Riopelle, *Composition*, 1956, oil on canvas, 28 1/2 in x 39 1/4 inches, Bechtler Museum of Modern Art. ©2012 Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York / SODRAC, Montreal

The exhibition takes one moment and reveals and celebrates the diversity of style and approach by 28 artists. It also reveals the breadth and depth of taste when it came to the Bechtler family as collec-

tors. There are works by figures whose careers were significant and profoundly influential and there are works by artists who never attained popular attention or success in the marketplace. But all of the works were important to the Bechtler family and many were created by artists with whom the Bechtler family had personal relationships, in some instances for decades.

Throughout *Mid-Century Modernism*, the viewer will see a wide framework of style and intention on the part of the artists. Some works are advanced purely for formal qualities; others are deeply imbued by religious belief and specific literary allusions. The exhibition encompasses 41 paintings, sculptures, drawings, prints and an artist book.

Mid-Century Modernism: 1957 and the Bechtler Collection includes works from the Bechtler collection that are on view in the museum for the first time by artists Emilio Stanzani, Robert Lienhard, Lynn Chadwick, Antonio Zoran Music and Zoltan Kemeny. The painting titled *Composition* by Jean-Paul Riopelle has been restored since it was last on view in the museum's inaugural exhibition.

continued above on next column to the right

Women Centered Art in Charlotte, NC, Offers Works by Local Women

Women Centered Art in Charlotte, NC, is presenting a group exhibit *Beauty*, the other "b" word, with works by 7 local women artists on view through Apr. 12, 2012. The exhibit was curated by artist, Diana Arvanites, and includes paintings and installations by Sharon Dowell, Martha Whitfield, Molly Wilbanks, Heather Freeman, Shane Agostinelli, and Mary Tuma.

Using ideology, social practices, and cultural hierarchies, beauty has been beaten down, pulled apart, tortured, revived, and entomologically and conceptually linked to kindness and justice. The parameters for beauty, as intangible and elusive as the mind that attempts to capture its slippery essence, not only change from moment to moment, but also from generation to generation, as values, expectations and fashions shift and change. The artist in this exhibit re-examine our ideas of beauty, whether it is through the removal of a taboo, a critical look at what society deems beautiful, or the seductive nature of beauty.

Women Centered Art is about bringing awareness to and creating community for artists through lectures, workshops, films, and exhibitions. With lectures, workshops, films and exhibitions focusing on women artists and issues that involve women, WCA sustains political awareness and voice and brings new understanding to the way of thinking about women in the arts.



Detail of installation by Shane Agostinelli

WCA's programming focuses on strengthening the female voice and vision here in Charlotte by creating a space to work and a place for nonjudgmental and open dialogue about the creative process.

For more info check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call Shane Agostinelli at 704/651-2224 or visit (www.womencenteredart.org).