

BlueRidgeNow.com

Mar 16, 2008

Artist series begins

The Asheville Art Museum, with generous support from MetLife Foundation and a partnership with the Buncombe County Public Libraries, announces the creation of the smART Speak Distinguished Artist Series and the four artists participating in this venture.

ASHEVILLE --- The Asheville Art Museum, with generous support from MetLife Foundation and a partnership with the Buncombe County Public Libraries, announces the creation of the smART Speak Distinguished Artist Series and the four artists participating in this venture. The smART Speak Distinguished Artist Series will bring internationally influential artists to Western North Carolina and surround their presentations with discussions, workshops and films. The first date in the series is Monday, March 31, at Asheville Community Theater when the Guerrilla Girls will use facts, humor and outrageous visuals to expose sexism, racism and corruption in politics, art, film and pop culture. The Guerrilla Girls will also be leading a hands-on workshop at the Asheville Art Museum on Tuesday, April 1. Space is limited for this event and advance registration through the Museum is required. On Thursday, Sept. 11, Pulitzer Prize-winning illustrator Art Spiegelman will speak at Thomas Wolfe Auditorium. Spiegelman is the creator of Maus, a gripping graphic novel about the Holocaust, and In the Shadow of No Towers, a personal work about his experiences during the 9/11 terrorist attacks. He will discuss the history of independent comics and his experiences after more than 40 years in that business. Wednesday, Nov. 18, will see multi-faceted artist Faith Ringgold talk about her work as a painter, textile artist, children's book author and illustrator exploring the African-American experience at Diana Wortham Theatre. The fourth event in the series will feature internationally known artists Christo and Jeanne-Claude speaking at Thomas Wolfe Auditorium on Thursday, Feb. 5. The couple will talk about their four decades of work together that includes surrounding 11 islands in Miami's Biscayne Bay with pink fabric in 1983 and placing 7,503 gates made of saffron-colored cloth along paths in New York City's Central Park in 2006. "Our reasons for choosing these artists are numerous, explained Nancy Sokolove, the Museum's adult programs manager. "The Guerilla Girl's mission of non-violent protest with a humorous sensibility certainly hits home for us in Asheville, and 'Activism' is the theme of the programs surrounding their visit." Art Spiegelman was chosen with the theme of 'Graphic Memory' in

mind as his graphic novels *Maus* and *In the Shadow of No Towers* are powerful, autobiographical and universal. "Personal Narrative" is the theme of the constellation of programs for the artist Faith Ringgold. Her story quilts bridge craft and fine art to speak to the African-American experience both personally and in a more universal way. The artists Christo and Jeanne-Claude are known for temporary art works that reflect and reinterpret their surroundings, and 'Art and Its Environment' is a natural theme for the programs before and after their visit. The Buncombe County Public Libraries is a partner with the Asheville Art Museum in obtaining this grant. The Asheville Art Museum, Pack Memorial Library and several of the branch libraries will be locations for smART Speak programs including book discussions, films and workshops. Visit the Asheville Art Museum and www.ashevilleart.org for more information about these events and associated programs as they become available. Centrally located in downtown Asheville on Pack Square, the Museum is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday. The Museum is open every Friday until 8 p.m. Admission to the Museum is \$6 for adults and \$5 for seniors, students with ID and for children 4-15 (children age three and younger are admitted free). Members are admitted free to the Museum.

Copyright © 2008 BlueRidgeNow.com .