



## NewsRelease

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### **THE MARKS ON THE FLOOR OF BUFFALO'S PAST RISE TO THE WALLS OF THE ALBRIGHT-KNOX ART GALLERY**

#### ***Ingrid Calame: Step on a Crack... Opens September 25***

**Buffalo, NY** — In June 2008, with the help of a team of local high school and college students, artists, and a security guard, the internationally renowned artist Ingrid Calame traced markings on the floors of ArcelorMittal, (a local steel finishing plant in Lackawanna); the grain elevators of RiverWright; the Albright-Knox Art Gallery parking lot; and an abandoned wading pool on Louisiana Street. From these tracings, Calame has created eleven works of art, including drawings and paintings, in her Los Angeles studio that will culminate in an exhibition of works in Buffalo. *Ingrid Calame: Step on a Crack...* will be on view at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery from September 25, 2009 to February 28, 2010.

Calame, born in 1965, was selected to be the 2008/2009 Artist-In-Residence, a new program at the Albright-Knox organized by Associate Curator of Education Nancy Spector. Calame is known for her artworks based on tracings of stains and marks found on city streets and sidewalks that she transposes to museum walls, creating major works of art from the impressions that people have left behind. *Step on a Crack...* will feature all of the artwork Calame has created from the Buffalo tracings and will include an oral history project that highlights the recollections of several generations of steel industry workers at the Lackawanna plant. The exhibition is organized by Albright-Knox Art Gallery Associate Curator Holly E. Hughes. Speaking about the exhibition, Hughes said, "It is a wonderful opportunity to connect the community, the city, its past, and its future through art."

Regarding the Artist-In-Residence project and the importance of its connection to the community, Calame has said "my audience is also my subject matter—I give the people of Buffalo the opportunity to see an artwork constructed out of the marks and traces of their city, some marks of which they might have inadvertently created. I hope to draw the citizens of Buffalo to their museum by reflecting the most overlooked aspect of their environment—street marks and industrial detritus. Formally, I transform the ordinary into the extraordinary. Similarly, I hope for the process of looking at art in the museum to be an inclusive and hallowed act of freedom of thought and imagination."

The artist will be in Buffalo to celebrate the public exhibition opening on September 25 during the Gallery's free Friday program, *Gusto at the Gallery*. Calame will talk about the project in the Gallery's Auditorium at 7 pm, a community tracing party

will take place, and tours of the exhibition will be offered throughout the evening. All events in connection with this September 25 opening are free to everyone.

Following the exhibition closing on February 28, 2010, one work will remain in Buffalo: *Mittal Steel No. 1 Shipping 192-209*, a major wall painting, commissioned by the Gallery for its Permanent Collection.

The Artist-in-Residence Program is made possible with major funding from the MetLife Foundation Museums and Community Connections Program and through the generous support of Sandy and Margie Nobel. Sincere thanks are extended to the local management at ArcelorMittal, Inc. and RiverWright, Inc. for their participation in the Artist-in-Residence Calame Project, and to Windermere Boulevard Elementary School, Valley Community Center, and Elmwood Village Charter School, whose students participated in educational programming before and during the residency.

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The Albright-Knox Art Gallery is recognized as one of the world's leading collections of modern and contemporary art. With more than 6,500 works in its collection and a dynamic series of exhibitions and public programs, the AKAG continues to grow and fulfill its mission to acquire, exhibit, and preserve modern and contemporary art in an enriching, dynamic, and vibrant environment.

Hours: Thursday 10 am to 5 pm; Friday 10 am to 10 pm; Saturday and Sunday 10 am to 5 pm; closed Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays. Admission: \$12 for adults; \$8 for seniors and students; free for Gallery Members and children 12 and under. On Fridays from 3 to 10 pm, *Gusto at the Gallery* features a variety of free programs for visitors of all ages. For additional information, visit [www.albrightknox.org](http://www.albrightknox.org).

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