



NewsRelease

FOR RELEASE:
Upon Receipt

CONTACT: Maria Morreale, Director of Marketing
716.270.8229, mmorreale@albrightknox.org

Beneath the Surface—The New Exhibition *Topographies* Opens on November 13

Buffalo, NY —Western New York audiences will have the opportunity to view new works by several internationally acclaimed artists for the first time when the new exhibition *Topographies* opens at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery on November 13. Works by Jorge Pardo, Ara Peterson, Tam Van Tran, and 2008 MacArthur “genius grant” winner Tara Donovan will be presented as part of this exhibition, which explores the work of artists who pay specific attention to detail, depth of imagery, and surface. Featuring twenty-three works by fourteen artists in a variety of media, the exhibition is drawn entirely from the Albright-Knox Art Gallery’s Permanent Collection and highlights many recent cutting-edge acquisitions that have not been seen by Gallery audiences to date.

These artists’ use of layering, mapping, biomorphic shapes, and natural and man-made materials to create surface detail will invite audiences to discover a myriad of nuance in these works, which find an allegory in the practice of topography.

Topography, the practice of creating detailed maps or charts that define the terrestrial characteristics of a singular locality, was originally conceived by ancient cultures as simply “the study of place.” Associate Curator Holly E. Hughes became fascinated with the practice while contemplating its contrariety to our rapidly changing contemporary landscape. “I have chosen the artists and the works for this show because of the visual language they employ, which is unique to contemporary abstraction. Oftentimes blurring the boundaries between the natural and the man-made, these artists pay specific attention to detail, surface, and depth of imagery, while at the same time morphing our world into a fantastical explosion of color, texture, and a hint of the unknown.”

Hughes selected the work for *Topographies* specifically to complement the Gallery’s concurrent exhibition *Ingrid Calame: Step on a Crack . . .*, which is currently on view. 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.

Along with Pardo, Peterson, Van Tran, and Donovan, *Topographies* includes Polly Apfelbaum, Jane Callister, Teresita Fernandez, Mark Fox, Ellen Gallagher, Udomsak Krisanamis, Heather McGill, Emilio Perez, Ken Price, Clare Woods, and Carrie Yamaoka.

A Members-Only Preview of the exhibition will be held on November 12 from 5 to 7 pm. *Topographies* will open to the public on November 13 and remains on view until February 28.

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.

NEW GALLERY HOURS BEGINNING TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2009: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday noon to 5 pm; Friday noon to 10 pm; Closed Mondays and Independence, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Days.

#