



Fine Arts Center
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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Katrina: Panel Discussion on March 10 **New Orleans curator, Louisiana artists discuss exhibit, Katrina aftermath**

COLORADO SPRINGS (Feb. 20, 2007) – Dr. Michael De Marsche will moderate the nation’s very first panel to discuss the effect of Hurricane Katrina on New Orleans and its artistic scene on March 10 at 10 a.m. at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center’s Music Room at 30 West Dale Street.

De Marsche, FAC President and CEO, organized the panel, which will be comprised of **Arthur Roger**, one of New Orleans’ most prominent and respected gallery owners for over 30 years, and three leading Louisiana artists, **Willie Birch**, **Jacqueline Bishop** and **Dawn Dedeaux**, who also contributed to the exhibition, *Katrina: Catastrophe and Catharsis*, on display at the FAC MODERN, March 9 – April 29.

“I’ve known Arthur Roger for 25 years,” said De Marsche. “Arthur and the artists from New Orleans that we are bringing to Colorado Springs are incredibly accomplished in their fields and they also know the anguish and devastation of Katrina firsthand. Their unique perspectives will make for a lively panel ... the first true serious discussion of Katrina in the art world.”

Following the free panel discussion, Roger will give a tour of the Katrina exhibition from 1 – 2 p.m. at the FAC MODERN (regular admission prices and privileges apply). Space is limited, so please call the Box Office at 719.634.5583 to reserve your space.

Arthur Roger – Was displaced by the hurricane, but despite the catastrophes that afflicted his own personal life, he wasted little time in asking artists throughout the nation for work that commented on the aftermath of Katrina. Roger is the owner of the Arthur Roger Gallery in New Orleans, which has been honored as ‘one of the most influential galleries in the contemporary art market.’ He is considered an innovator and a successful risk taker. His gallery has contributed to art exhibitions and fairs in Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami, Toronto and Seattle. The Arthur Roger Gallery was the first gallery to re-open in New Orleans after Katrina; Roger is actively involved in the cultural rebirth of the NOLA arts scene.

Willie Birch – A native of New Orleans Willie Birch creates politically incisive yet emotionally sensitive work that addresses issues related to African-American culture and survival. The artist’s recent work has

addressed New Orleans musical heritage and also the multi-layered experience of African-American males. Birch's work has powerful political, sociological and spiritual meaning but is wonderfully anchored in the daily life and celebratory rituals of the artist's New Orleans neighborhood. The work of Birch is exhibited and collected by museums, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the New Orleans Museum of Art and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. Birch was awarded a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in 1984 and 1989. He also received the 1993 John Guggenheim Fellowship in sculpture.

Jacqueline Bishop – For the last 20 years Jacqueline Bishop has focused on painting psychological and political elements regarding the natural world. Basing her imagery on frequent trips to remote regions in North, South and Central America including the Amazon rain forest, Bishop creates beautiful paintings celebrating the beauty of nature but often also conveying a sense of impending doom. The fragile interconnection of nature is a central theme in her work. Jacqueline Bishop's paintings represent the beauty and mystery of hidden places in the world and within us. She has traveled with scientists and alone through the disappearing forests of the Americas in Peru, Bolivia, Venezuela, the Brazilian Amazon, Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Belize as well as her own Louisiana swamps. Recently she also journeyed twice to Calcutta, India and Bangladesh to lecture.

Dawn Dedeaux – One of America's pioneering artists in new media, Dawn DeDeaux was the first artist in Louisiana to heavily utilize electronic technology; beginning with the creation of her CB Radio Booth media sculpture works and her outdoor environment works which incorporated video/film projections on buildings in 1975. She is considered a pioneering artist in her creation of synchronized multi-screen film surround environments such as the work, *Face of God*. She is the winner of the international Montage 93 competition for work which best merged art and technology. Works by DeDeaux have been exhibited widely, including at the Whitney Museum of American Art, Armand Hammer Museum in Los Angeles, The Baltimore Museum of Contemporary Art, The New Orleans Museum of Art, The Peace Museum, Chicago and Delfina Trust in London, England.

Katrina: Catastrophe and Catharsis, the first exhibition dedicated to the works of internationally respected artists responding to the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, debuts at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center. Presented from Friday, March 9, through Sunday, April 29, 2007, at the FAC MODERN in downtown Colorado Springs, the exhibition showcases the works of leading artists and photographers, including David Bates, Luis Cruz Azaceta, John Scott, Douglas Bourgeois, Willie Birch, Jacqueline Bishop and Debbie Fleming Caffery. In May, the exhibition will travel to various venues throughout the United States, under the banner of the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center.

"The exhibition is nothing short of remarkable," commented Dr. Michael De Marsche, Fine Arts Center President and CEO. "The painting, photography, and drawing that constitute the show represent deeply personal statements that cover the gamut of emotions. Rife with pathos, the show is at once powerfully moving, provocative, and uplifting."

In addition, a selection of more than 100 photographs from the New Orleans Museum of Art exhibition and book, *Katrina Exposed: A Photographic Reckoning*, complements the main exhibit.

To reserve your space, contact the FAC Box Office at 719.634.5583 or visit www.csfineartscenter.org

Artist biographies courtesy of www.arthurrogergallery.com