



# News Release

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Contact: Julie Thomson, Outreach Coordinator  
517/353-9834; thomso16@msu.edu

**EXHIBITION:** *Paintings That Paint Themselves, or so it seems*

**DATES:** September 7- October 31, 2004

**OPENING** Thursday, September 9, 7-9 p.m. At 8 p.m. Gallery Walk with Curator April Kingsley and comments by artist Jeffrey Simmons.

**LOCATION:** Kresge Art Museum, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich.

## How Did They Do That?

### *Paintings That Paint Themselves, or so it seems to open at Kresge Art Museum*

The groundbreaking exhibition *Paintings That Paint Themselves, or so it seems* explores a recent trend in contemporary painting where surfaces seem to have formed themselves, raising questions as to how the painting was made. This exhibition marks the first opportunity in the Midwest to view work by many of the 24 artists included and to examine the methods by which these paintings were created. *Paintings That Paint Themselves* will be on view at Kresge Art Museum, September 7 through October 31, 2004. Support for this exhibition comes from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs.

This exhibition of over 40 paintings, all created within the past five years, includes luscious abstractions by Prudencio Irazabal of Spain, Korean Moon Beom, England's Oliver Marsden, Americans Roxy Paine, Michael McCaffrey, David Reed, Jason Young, Kim Squaglia, and from Michigan, Irving Zane Taran and Mary McDonnell, among others.

While many of these painters use traditional oil paint it is in very new ways; others involve resin, urethane, beeswax or alkyds, or computers, along with chemistry and even alchemy to create paintings devoid of the sense of the artist's hand. Though Jackson Pollock's drips and various pouring methods developed by the Color Field painters in the 1960s laid the groundwork for these painters, more immediate concerns with translucency, layering, and accident and surprise as well as calculation, and process occupy these artists.

"The experience of these paintings occurs in the viewer's eye while watching them grow and develop optically as you stand in front of them," says April Kingsley, curator of the exhibition. "I found these artists in international fairs held in New York, Chicago, and Miami during the past few years. Clearly something is happening in contemporary art that is well defined, but hasn't yet been declared a trend. "

An online catalogue will be available in late August at [www.artmuseum.msu.edu](http://www.artmuseum.msu.edu) A list of public programs related to this exhibition can also be found online.

Admission is free to Kresge Art Museum and many of its public programs. The museum is open Monday – Friday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Thursday until 8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday noon – 5 p.m. Kresge Art Museum is located on the campus of Michigan State University, in East Lansing, Mich. For additional information please call 517/355-7631 or visit [www.artmuseum.msu.edu](http://www.artmuseum.msu.edu) # # #