



News Release

February 2, 2005

*** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

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

PROGRAM: Trompe l'Oeil Lecture Series
DATES: Tuesdays- February 8; February 22; and March 1
DETAILS: All lectures take place in 108 Kresge Art Center at 7 p.m.

**Kresge Art Museum Presents the *Trompe l'Oeil* Lecture Series
in conjunction with the exhibit *Masters of Illusion: 150 Years of Trompe l'Oeil in America***

This February and March Kresge Art Museum presents the *Trompe l'Oeil Lecture Series* in conjunction with the current exhibition *Masters of Illusion: 150 Years of Trompe l'Oeil in America*. The lectures by the exhibit's curator, the curator of American Art from the Detroit Institute of Arts, and a visiting artist will cover the traditional 19th century works of art in the exhibit to the contemporary art.

The first lecture, *New Twists on an Old Theme: Contemporary Trompe l'Oeil*, takes place on Tuesday, **February 7** at 7 p.m. in Kresge Art Museum. Exhibit and KAM curator **April Kingsley** will discuss the continued use of illusion in the 20th and 21st centuries. Kingsley will discuss the work of Tom Friedman, Sylvia Mangold, Robert Gober, Vernon Fisher, Alan Magee, and Sam Taylor-Wood among others.

Jim Tottis, curator of American Art at the Detroit Institute of Arts, will present *The Mystery of Illusion: Traditional Trompe l'Oeil Painting in America* on Tuesday, **February 22** at 7 p.m. in 108 Kresge Art Center. He will focus on the 19th century and early 20th century artists in the exhibit including John Peto and William Michael Harnett.

On Tuesday, **March 1** at 7 p.m. in 108 Kresge Art Center **New York Artist Jonathan Seliger** will talk about his work. Please note the museum will be open before the talk from 6:30-7 p.m. this night. Three sculptures by Seliger are on view in *Masters of Illusion*. About his work Seliger says, "I try to blur the boundary between painting and sculpture in order to create what can be regarded as a three-dimensional painting... By focusing on mundane, ephemeral, or disposable subjects, I want my work to be both ordinary and poetic, accessible and transfigured."

The *Trompe l'Oeil* Lecture Series is free and open for all to attend. These talks are made possible by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and Jonathan Seliger's talk is also supported by the Department of Art and Art History, MSU.

Masters of Illusion: 150 Years of Trompe l'Oeil in America, on view through March 20, 2005, includes 19th century paintings in the traditional *trompe l'oeil* (pronounced tromp loy) style as well as contemporary variations in sculpture and video. It will leave viewers wondering if what they see is real. Translated from French, *trompe l'oeil* literally means "to fool-the-eye." A preview of the exhibition is available online at www.artmuseum.msu.edu.

Kresge Art Museum is open Monday – Friday 10 a.m. – 5p.m., Thursday until 8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday noon – 5 p.m. Admission is free. Kresge Art Museum is located on the campus of Michigan State University, in East Lansing. For additional information please call 517/355-7631 or visit www.artmuseum.msu.edu

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