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Investigating the Natural World with Inorganic Materials

Racine, WI October 13, 2014

Racine Art Museum is pleased to present **(in)Organic** open through February 1, 2015. This exhibition features artists investigating the biological through artificial materials, such as polymer or acrylic yarn, or organic-based media, like fibrous handmade paper, pencils, or ceramic. Whether exploring cellular structures or creating extraordinary representations of familiar forms, these artists create work that straddles the permeable lines between chaos and disorder, the beautiful and the monstrous, and the contained and pervasive.

Undeniably, the natural world is a popular and compelling area of interest and exploration for contemporary artists. In fact, as subject matter, the natural world has been a persistent and provocative theme throughout art and design history. What distinguishes the work of certain artists early in the twenty-first century is a desire to explore the connection between human beings and the larger, organic world through specific material choices and/or as a topic relating to growth, outgrowths, and perhaps, even an overabundant nature.

Artists whose works are featured in *(in)Organic* include: Harriete Estel Berman, Leslie Blackford, Peter Chang, Jeffrey Lloyd Dever, Jessica Drenk, Kathleen Dustin, Nora Fok, Jasmyne Graybill, Amy Gross, Maggie Maggio, Bruce Metcalf, Keizuke Mizuno, Jillian Moore, Masako Onodera, Katie Poterala, Leisa Rich, Michelle Samour, Bonnie Seeman, Melanie West, and Tatayna Yanishevsky.

(in)Organic: Labs

In the gallery on the second floor, **(in)Organic: Labs** features installations by artists Wendy Wallin Malinow and Edgar Mosa who extend the conversation started by *(in)Organic*. The artists were invited by RAM to experiment within this gallery space. For Malinow and Mosa, the natural world is a source of inspiration as well as a framework through which they can explore cycles of life, and ideas about growth.

(more)



Special Event: RAM Members Exhibition Event

On Friday, October 17, 5:30 to 7:30 pm, Racine Art Museum will host an exhibition event that offers a unique opportunity to meet some of the artists featured in *(in)Organic*. This members' event includes light refreshments and is also open to the public with general admission of \$10. RAM Members are free.

(in)Organic is made possible at Racine Art Museum by: Platinum Sponsors - Karen Johnson Boyd and William B. Boyd, SC Johnson, Windgate Charitable Foundation; Diamond Sponsor - Sam and Gene Johnson Fund; Gold Sponsors - Herzfeld Foundation, Johnson Bank, Racine Community Foundation, Racine United Arts Fund; Silver Sponsors - Elwood Corporation, Helen Bader Foundation, Osborne and Scekcic Family Foundation, Runzheimer Foundation, Inc., W.T. Walker Group, Inc., Wisconsin Arts Board; Bronze Sponsors - 88NINE Radio Milwaukee, CNH Industrial, EC Styberg Foundation, Educators Credit Union, The Garvey Group, In Sink Erator, Miracle on Canal Street, The Norbell Foundation, Orkney Springs Retreat, Real Racine, Robert W. Baird Foundation, Ruud Family Foundation.

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Together, the two campuses of the Racine Art Museum, RAM in downtown Racine at 441 Main Street and the Charles A. Wustum Museum of Fine Arts at 2519 Northwestern Avenue, seek to elevate the stature of contemporary crafts to that of fine art by exhibiting significant works in craft media with painting, sculpture and photography, while providing outstanding educational art programming.

Docent led contemporary craft and architectural tours of the museums are available. Both campuses of the Racine Art Museum, are open Tuesday – Saturday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm, and are closed Mondays, Federal holidays and Easter. RAM is open Sunday Noon – 5:00 pm, while Wustum is closed Sundays. An admission fee of \$5 for adults, with reduced fees for students and seniors, applies at RAM. Admission to Wustum is free. Members are always admitted without charge to either campus.