

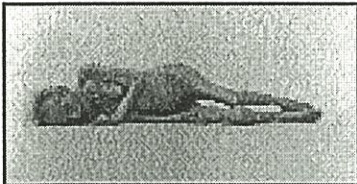
the **aldrich**
museum of
contemporary
art

For Immediate Release
Contact: Heide Hendricks
pr@aldrichart.org
Tel: 203 438-4519
Fax: 203-438-0198

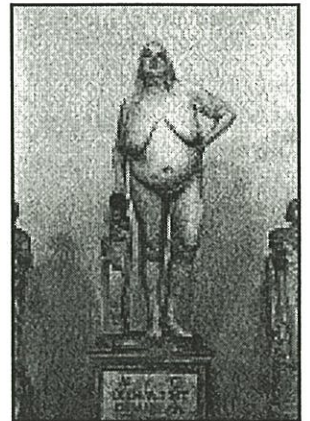
The Nude in Contemporary Art
June 6 – September 12, 1999

Ridgefield, CT—The Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art announces the opening reception for the exhibition *The Nude in Contemporary Art* on Sunday, June 6, from 4 to 6 pm. The exhibition, which was curated by director Harry Philbrick with assistant director Richard Klein and assistant curator Jessica Hough, specifically focuses on how the human form—a perennial art subject throughout history in painting, drawing, and sculpture—has been re-interpreted by emerging and influential contemporary artists. *The Nude in Contemporary Art* will remain on view through September 12, 1999.

According to Harry Philbrick, the chief curator, "the exhibition is an opportunity to show how a really diverse group of artists from America, Europe, and Japan—young and old, well known and not—approach one of the oldest subjects in art: the nude. The exhibition confronts, from many points of view, aging, disease, birth, cultural norms, and the celebration of beauty. The exhibition also reminds us of the enormous challenge any artist faces in attempting to depict the human form." Some of the work in the exhibition may be considered deeply traditional in its furtherance of the practice of artists exploring issues of aesthetics, beauty, gender, and mortality through the depiction of the human form, but in all instances the work transcends convention. The exhibition includes painting, drawing, photography, and sculpture, as well as the newer media of holography, video, and installation.

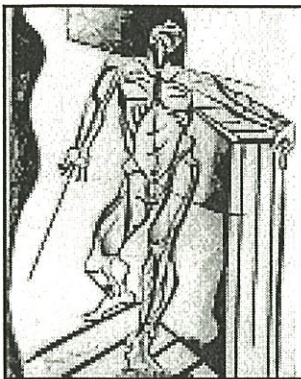


Manabu Yamanka *Giyahtei*



Jacqueline Hayden
Ancient Statuary #10

Karen Finley's *Go Figure*, an installation that consists of a life drawing class with a model and instructor, will be held on a regular basis during the run of the exhibition in Gallery Nine on the third floor of the Museum. Newsprint pads and charcoal will be available for visitors who wish to participate in the class. Resultant drawings will be hung in the gallery as part of the *Go Figure* installation. Karen Finley will conduct a preliminary life drawing class on Saturday, June 5, the day before the exhibition's opening reception. All subsequent life drawing classes will be in conjunction with the Silvermine Arts Center, New Canaan, Wooster Community Art Center, Danbury, and Ridgefield Guild of Artists, Ridgefield, and will take place Tuesday through Sunday, 1 to 3 pm at the Museum.

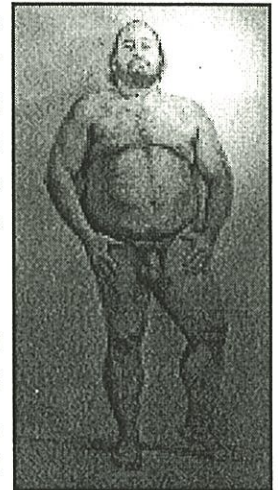


Jacob Lawrence
Figure Study After Vesalius

The exhibition will also include an off-site installation by Melanie Manchot. The curators plan to secure the use of a roughly 10' x 22' billboard for a nude portrait of the artist's mother, who appears in the foreground of a panoramic Swiss mountain range. The full photograph will be included in the exhibition at The Aldrich..

Of the many artists whose work was selected for *The Nude in Contemporary Art*, several—such as Jacob Lawrence—are not immediately associated with this subject matter. Tina Barney, an artist predominantly recognized for her large-scale portraits of family members in domestic settings, is represented in this exhibition by a series of nude portraits of models informally posed within domestic and business settings. Chuck Close will unveil examples from his latest body of work in which he has revisited this subject for the first time since the mid-eighties.

At press time the work of the following artists was scheduled for inclusion in *The Nude in Contemporary Art*: Laura Aguilar, Tina Barney, Lisa Bartolozzi, William Beckman, Brett Bigbee, Paul Cadmus, Sherry Camhy, David Carbone, Harriet Casdin-Silver, Joe Cavallaro, Eteri Chkadua, Chuck Close, John Coplans, Renée Cox, Meg Cranston, James Croak, John Currin, Steven DiGiovanni, Jeanne Dunning, Karen Finley, Lucian Freud, Philip Grausman, Chris Habib, Anne Harris, Jacqueline Hayden, Kinke Kooi, Peter Krashes, Daniel Ladd, Jacob Lawrence, Harriet Leibowitz, Michael Leonard, Melanie Manchot, Denise Marika, John O'Reilly, Hanneline Røgeberg, Karin Sander, Jenny Saville, Andres Serrano, Robert Stivers, Annelies Štrba, Jock Sturges, Robert Taplin, Spencer Tunick, Manabu Yamanaka, and Lisa Yuskavage.



Sherry Camhy
Richard, The Golem

The Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art is located in Ridgefield, CT, on Route 35, approximately one hour and ten minutes north of Manhattan. Museum hours are Tuesday through Sunday 12 noon to 5 pm; Friday 12 noon to 8 pm. Admission: \$5 adults; \$2 seniors and students; members and children under twelve, free; Tuesday, free all day.

Catalogue

There will be a full-color catalogue with an essay by David McCarthy, author of *The Nude in American Painting, 1950-1980*, and a frequent contributor of essays about American art to the *New Art Examiner* and *American Art*. Artist Karen Finley will contribute a composition that reflects on life drawing classes she attended as a child at the Art Institute of Chicago. The catalogue will cost \$19.95 and be available the first week in June.

Exhibition Programs

Contemporary Context Lecture Series



1. **William Beckman**

Sunday, June 27, 1999, from 4 to 6pm

\$5 member; \$10 non-member

William Beckman, an accomplished painter dedicated to the contemporary investigation of the classical nude, will present a slide lecture surveying highlights of the nude as a perennial subject throughout history. Topics addressed will range from the portrayal of the body as an ideal form to more recent uses as a political tool for subverting cultural conceptions of gender. Reserve seating.

2. **Karen Finley**

Sunday, September 12, 4 to 6 pm

\$5 member; \$10 non-member

Artist/author/performance artist Karen Finley (who can now add Hollywood director to her credits) will discuss her experiences as a female artist exploring the traditionally male subject of the nude. Topics addressed include the proverbial "gaze" and its political implications. Reserve seating.

Aspects of Contemporary Art

Thursdays, July, 1, 8, 15, 22, from 6:30 to 8 pm

\$6.25 member; \$8.75 non-member

Artists from this exhibition come to The Aldrich to discuss their work and its evolution.

July 1 **Steven DiGiovanni**

July 15 **John O'Reilly**

July 8 **Lyle Ashton Harris ***

July 22 **Anne Harris**

* Lyle Ashton Harris's exhibition of his most recent portraits entitled *20 X 24* opens at The Aldrich concurrently with *The Nude in Contemporary Art*.

Master Life Drawing Classes

Sundays, June 5, 27, July 11, 18, 25, August 8, 15, 29, 4 to 7 pm

\$45 member; \$60 non-member; materials will vary and are not included.

The Aldrich Museum will offer a series of Master Life Drawing Classes. Each three-hour class will be taught by a different exhibiting artist from *The Nude in Contemporary Art* and be conducted within Karen Finley's *Go Figure* installation.

Master Life Drawing Classes Schedule:

June 5	Karen Finley	July 25	Steven DiGiovanni
June 27	Philip Grausman	August 8	Brett Bigbee
July 11	Sherry Camhy	August 15	Lisa Bartolozzi
July 18	Karen Finley	August 29	Robert Taplin