

Artist Karen Finley to Speak at The Aldrich Museum

September 12, 4 to 6 pm

Ridgefield, CT (August 9, 1999)—The Aldrich Museum will present a gallery talk by artist, author, and Hollywood director Karen Finley, at 4 pm on Sunday, September 12 at the Museum. Tickets cost \$10 (\$5 member) and reservations are strongly encouraged.

Finley will discuss her experiences as a female artist exploring the traditionally male subject of the nude and highlight the contradictory perceptions within both the artworld and contemporary culture of the nude as a subject. Featured in the Museum's current exhibition *The Nude in Contemporary Art* is Finley's *Go Figure* installation, which consists of on-going life drawing classes with a model and instructor. Visitors to the Museum can use supplied materials to participate in the class and then hang their resultant drawings on the walls of the Museum.

The gallery talk will also place in context Finley's appearance in the recent July issue of *Playboy* magazine, as well as present video clips such as her *Nude in Museum* (1992) performance, for which Finley roamed after hours through a museum posing alongside various classical and modern works of art that featured nude models. Finley will also discuss her highly publicized, litigious battle with the National Endowment for the Arts, who rescinded funding for her controversial performances. [Last year, the Supreme Court ruled that Government organizations could, in fact, "uphold general standards of decency" in defense of their decisions to restrict funding to artists.]"

The Aldrich Museum is located approximately one hour and fifteen minutes north of Manhattan. For directions by car or train, call The Aldrich at 203-438-4519. Museum hours are Tuesday – Sunday, 12 noon to 5 pm; Friday, 12 noon to 8 pm.



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 Camby**

August 15

Lisa Bartolozzi

July 18 **Karen Finley**

August 29

Robert Taplin