



The National Academy Museum & School of Fine Arts  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**National Academy Museum to Feature an Exceptional Array of Work in “*The 185<sup>th</sup> Annual: An Invitational Exhibition of Contemporary American Art*”**

New York, January 4, 2010 — ***The 185<sup>th</sup> Annual: An Invitational Exhibition of Contemporary American Art*** will feature 65 emerging and established artists selected by a jury of National Academicians. This biennial invitational is an inter-generational exhibition of non-Academicians that offers an opportunity for the public to preview new artistic directions in contemporary American art. Seen from the perspective of distinguished American artists, this national exhibition includes artists working in the New York area and the Eastern region as well as the Midwest, West Coast, and as far away as Hawaii.

The show runs from February 17 through June 8, 2010. It spans the gamut from realism to abstraction, and includes a mix of painting, sculpture, mixed media and installation art. Selections represent diverse ideas, mediums and techniques from an historic number of over 400 artists that submitted work for consideration. “The exhibition includes an array of artists and art-making strategies from emerging and veteran abstractionists to representational artists addressing issues of identity and sexuality,” notes Marshall Price, Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at the National Academy Museum.

The baroque sculpture of **PETAH COYNE** uses found objects and materials that create an encrusted surface that is a lush and opulent comment on beauty and decay.

Subtle effects are achieved in the provocative work of Egyptian-born artist **GHADA AMER** who uses embroidery as her medium creating an abstract field of muted color and texture that veils the erotic imagery underneath. She comments on the oppression of women in the world as well as a woman’s sexuality.

In opposition, the colorful paintings of **DANA SCHUTZ** and **CHRIS MARTIN** make the space come alive. Schutz uses a new strategy of atomizing the field of color with pointillist dots. Then she reassembles the figures within the field with a line that marks the form. Martin adds glitter to his bold colors and forms that create large quirky abstractions.

A large color transparency mounted in a light box shows Brazilian artist **CILDO MEIRELES** standing on his head atop a plinth with the words *socle du monde* (*base of the world*) which is a play on Piero Manzoni’s piece from the 1960s that announced that the whole world is art and that artists therefore are obsolete. Here Meireles seems to put the artist back in picture, even if on his head.

Many more of the finest American artists working today are also represented in the show, including **Alison Elizabeth Taylor, Nina Yankowitz, Anna Lambrini Moisiadis, John Bradford, Sam Hernandez, Valerie Jaudon** and **Sarah Walker**.

The exhibition will run from February 17 through June 8, 2010 at the National Academy Museum, 1083 Fifth Avenue at 89<sup>th</sup> Street, New York City. The Museum is open Wednesday and Thursday, 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM, Friday, 1:00 PM to 9:00 PM, and Saturday and Sunday, 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Closed Monday and Tuesday. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for seniors and students, free for children under 12.

Public programs including gallery talks, panels and docent tours will be announced as the show commences.

The 185th Annual is generously funded by the Dedalus Foundation, Inc, the F. Donald Kenney Fund, The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and The New York State Council on the Arts.

The National Academy Museum & School of Fine Arts was the first institution of its kind with the simple yet profound mission to “promote the fine arts in America through instruction and exhibition.” As true today as when it was founded in 1825, the Academy remains a place where working artists and architects come together to create, educate, share ideas, and show their work. At its heart are the 325 National Academicians who give it both its historic richness and vital energy and are the source of the Museum’s impressive permanent collection. Included are many of America’s leading painters, sculptors, architects and printmakers such as Asher B. Durand, Winslow Homer, Louise Bourgeois, Frank Lloyd Wright, I.M. Pei, Robert Rauschenberg, Maya Lin, Frank Gehry and Red Grooms. The Museum houses one of the largest collections of nineteenth and twentieth century American art in the country, and includes an unparalleled portrait collection. Throughout the year, visitors can view works from the collection or see exhibitions that reflect the Academy’s mission to celebrate American art and artists.