



MISSISSIPPI MUSEUM *of* ART  
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**Mississippi Museum of Art Unveils Two New Exhibitions**  
***Contemporary American Works of Art Featured***

**(Jackson, Miss.)**. . .The Mississippi Museum of Art proudly announces the premier of two new exhibitions. *On the Wall/Off the Wall: Modern American Masterpieces from the Permanent Collection* and *The Luxury of Exercise: Small Sculpture and Works on Paper by Claudia DeMonte* open Saturday, April 10, and feature work by some of America's most recognizable and collected artists.

Of the more than 5,000 objects that make up the Museum's permanent collection, *On the Wall/Off the Wall* presents some fifty pieces in a fascinating array of paintings, drawings, prints, sculpture, and photographs by twentieth– to twenty-first–century artists, and reveals some of the many fresh aesthetic directions the avant-garde has taken. On view are exemplary works by noted artists such as Dennis Oppenheim, Michael Goldberg, Hunt Slonem, Darra Keeton, Sam Gilliam, Betye Saar, William Eggleston, and John DeAndrea, among others.

“These artists represent a mere handful of the outstanding contemporary artists whose work we own, and are evidence of the Museum's ongoing commitment to collecting and exhibiting the best of contemporary American art,” said Deputy Director for Programs Dan Piersol.

The law firm of Watkins, Ludlam, Winter, & Stennis, P.A. has chosen to sponsor this exhibition.

“We are excited to be a sponsor of this wonderful exhibit which highlights pieces from the Museum’s collection of contemporary American art including noted Mississippians,” said Dennis Miller, the firm’s CEO.

Opening concurrently with *On the Wall/Off the Wall* is the one-woman exhibition *The Luxury of Exercise: Small Sculpture and Works on Paper* by *Claudia DeMonte*.

For much of her career, New York artist Claudia DeMonte has explored the role of women in contemporary life, often by transforming everyday objects and images into ritual artifacts invested with more than one meaning. *The Luxury of Exercise* wittily looks at America’s indulgent consumer society, the national obsession with our appearance, and the fitness craze.

Dozens of small bronze female figures in an array of stylized exercise poses are shown clustered in display cases, or hanging on the gallery walls alongside drawings of similar lively figures. A full-size wooden running shoe adorned with tiny pewter “charms” that recall the milagros found in many Catholic churches in Mexico reveals DeMonte’s abiding interest in cultures beyond our own.

“Claudia’s small art objects effectively carry a big message: that less is more,” said Museum Director Betsy Bradley.

Both exhibitions open in tandem with *Herb and Dorothy: A Glimpse into Their Extraordinary Collection*. *Herb and Dorothy* features fifty works of contemporary art that the Museum received as gifts from New York collectors Dorothy and Herbert (Herb) Vogel through The Dorothy and Herbert Vogel Collection: Fifty Works for Fifty States program. The program, a collaborative effort between the Vogels, the National Gallery of Art, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services, targets one art institution in each of the fifty states to receive a share of 2,500 works. The Mississippi Museum of Art was chosen as Mississippi’s recipient.

“We are thrilled to offer visitors three separate exhibitions that, while all contemporary in genre, are unique in their respective techniques, mediums, and imagery,” said Bradley.

To complement the exhibitions, the Museum has plans to host “Conversations with . . . Claudia DeMonte, Lisa Bradley, and Darra Keeton” on Tuesday, April 6, at 5:00 p.m. Each of the artists has works included in one or more of the exhibitions, and will be on hand to discuss her personal style, technique, and inspiration.

“ ‘Conversations with . . . ’ is a program that offers our members, sponsors, and press a chance to ask questions of artists, while offering the artists a forum in which they can elaborate on their work,” said Bradley.

*On the Wall/Off the Wall: Modern American Masterpieces from the Permanent Collection and The Luxury of Exercise: Small Sculpture and Works on Paper by Claudia DeMonte* are on view through July 30, 2010. *Herb and Dorothy: A Glimpse into Their Extraordinary Collection* runs through September 12, 2010. All three exhibitions are installed in the Donna and Jim Barksdale Galleries for Changing Exhibitions at the Museum.

Please call 601-960-1515 or 1-800-VIEWART, or visit the web at [www.msmuseumart.org](http://www.msmuseumart.org) for more information about these exhibitions and other programs offered by the Mississippi Museum of Art.

*The Mississippi Museum of Art and its programs are sponsored in part by the city of Jackson and the Jackson Convention & Visitors Bureau. Support is also provided in part by funding from the Mississippi Arts Commission, a state agency, and in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.*

Exhibition hours: Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sunday, noon to 5 p.m., closed Monday. Admission: \$5 adults, \$4 seniors (60+), \$3 students (6 through college), free for children 5 and under, free for Museum members. Hours and admission may vary during major exhibitions.