



June 23 – July 24, 2011

Curator: Lizzie Zucker Saltz

Assistant Curator: Ashley Westpheling

ABOUT THE EXHIBIT

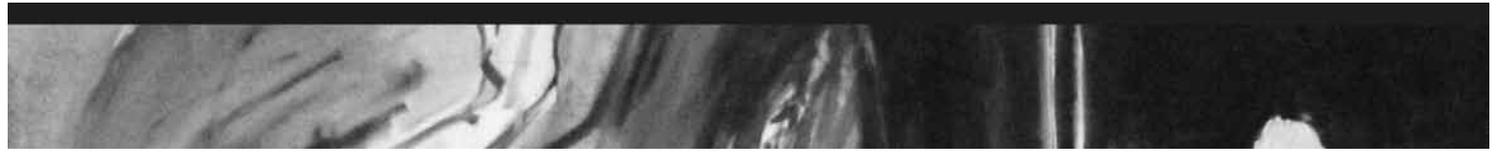
These thirty oil paintings by longtime painter Maxine Youngblood inaugurate ATHICA's first Resident Studio exhibit. Ms. Youngblood has rented her large studio from FiveArt, Inc. since 2003, in the same building as ATHICA.

Youngblood, born in 1937, started creating art in 1989 at the age of 52. The works in this exhibit are colorful, passionate and deeply reminiscent of French and German Expressionism, bringing to mind European Modernist painters such as Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, James Ensor, Max Beckman, Emil Nolde and Chaim Soutine as well as Abstract Expressionists such as Willem DeKooning and Franz Kline and more recent painters such as A.R. Penck. Several measure over six feet.

The vast majority of the works selected by curator Lizzie Zucker Saltz and Assistant Curator Ashley Westpheling are figurative, many referencing pop icons such as Elvis, Marilyn and Donald Trump. Others portray local artists, performers, models and writers, including performer Deonna Mann, painter Katie Walker and fellow resident studio photographer Peter Frey. The dates of the works range from the mid 1990's to 2009, with one deeply emotional large-scale work portraying O.J. Simpson's mother at his trial in 1995 and another depicting a Halloween scene from New York City's West Village in the 1990's that features another Marilyn reference.

Youngblood graduated in 1997 from the University of Georgia's Lamar Dodd School of Art (UGA-LDSOA) with an MFA. The influence of Jim Herbert is strong and evident in these works. She is indebted as well to LDSOA Art Professors Art Rosenbaum, Judith McWillie, Bill Paul, Larry Millard, Horace Farlowe and Richard 'Ole' Olsen. She also cites an independent study and subsequent friendship with New York artist Chuck Hinman as significant to her artistic development. During her undergraduate years in Atlanta she met Otis Physioc—an artist from Americus, Georgia—who took her under his wing and taught her how to render figures in proportion. They remained friends for many years.

A lifetime Georgia resident, she is married to Jim Youngblood. She has one daughter, Kathryn Minotto, who is depicted in *The Model Kathryn Actress*, one of the paintings on exhibit. Before devoting herself to artistic pursuits she had myriad careers. She is in her third year of a doctorate program at Argosy University of Sarasota, in Educational Leadership with a Higher Education concentration.



ANNOTATED EXHIBITION CHECKLIST

The notes below were drawn from an interview with the artist by assistant curator Ashley Westpheling

All works oil on canvas

Abstract Perception (2007) – 36" x 48"

The Artist at Work (1991) – 30" x 24"

This self-portrait depicts the artist wearing what she typically wore to paint: an oversized white button up, a black hat, and Chanel lipstick.

Artist Masquerade (1995) – 20" x 16"

Another self-portrait depicting the emotional experience of her transformation into a painter.

Artist Model Karen Grant (1997) – 30" x 22"

The Artist in Transition (2008) – 20" x 16"

Deonna Mann (1997) – 36" x 36"

Deonna Mann in Costume (1991) – 48" x 36"

Deonna Mann in Costume (1992) – 48" x 36"

Deonna Mann, a popular model for Youngblood, is featured in four paintings in this exhibit (all noted in titles). Mann was a well-known performance artist who lived in Athens for many years while also working as a model. She often dressed in a highly theatrical manner that inspired many of Youngblood's paintings, some of which were featured in a story on Mann broadcast on ABC.

Donald Trump (2009) – 30" x 15"

Elvis (2008) – 42" x 30.25"

Youngblood was fascinated with Elvis ever since she heard "Blue Suede Shoes" on TV in high school and saw him live. Later, when Elvis performed in Atlanta in 1970 at the Omni, one of Youngblood's high-school students who worked at the venue had Elvis dedicate a song to her.

Elvis Off Record Cover (1990) – 18.25" x 18.25"

Halloween West Village NYC (1994) – 48" x 72"

This painting, from Youngblood's time in New York City, depicts an evening when she became separated from her husband and found herself in

the middle of a crowd watching the celebrity West Village Halloween parade. The painting depicts different costumed celebrities, including Bill and Hillary Clinton as witches, Elizabeth Taylor, and a Marilyn Monroe impersonator on stilts.

Happy Birthday, Mr. President (2007) – 30" x 24"

One of the artist's many Marilyn Monroe inspired paintings.

Influenced by Chartres Stained Glass (2003) – 20" x 20"

Katie Walker from Memory (1997) – 32" x 26"

This portrait—like many of the other portraits—was painted from memory, a skill she learned from UGA Professor Richard Olsen. It features fellow painter Katie Walker, the artist's friend from her days in Graduate School at the LDSOA.

Madonna (1997) – 60" x 48"

Pop culture figures Madonna, Marilyn Monroe and Lady Gaga are inspirational for Youngblood, because of their elaborate costumes and interesting lifestyles. This painting depicts a modern Madonna, influenced by Willem De Kooning's Woman series.

Madonna's Book Release Party, NYC 1992 – (1994-1995) – 76.25" x 81.5"

Youngblood was living in New York in 1992 studying at the Art Student's League when she stumbled into Madonna's book release party. She claims that she was let into the party solely because she was carrying the *Washington Post*, and so she looked like a member of the press.

Model (1991) – 20" x 16"

Model (1997) – 28" x 22.25"

The Model Cindy Harrold (1997) – 40" x 30"

The Model Karen Grant (1997) – 30" x 25"

The Model Kathryn Actress (1992) – 48" x 36"



O.J. Simpson's Mother at his Trial as Seen on TV (1995) – 79.5" x 70

The artist followed the trial closely, as she does many current events, and was inspired by the expression of pathos on the mother's face.

The One (1990) – 14" x 11"

Patrick and Poppy Z. Brite (1993) – 40" x 30"

Poppy Z. Brite is a famous fiction writer and trans gender male (born biologically female) seen here in his former female incarnation. He and boomerang artist Patrick Cardiff were models for one of Art Rosenbaum's painting classes that Youngblood took as a graduate student.

Peter and Deonna at Play (1998) – 48" x 54"

Photographer Peter Frey is depicted with Deonna.

Tulips (1997) – 38" x 50"

The Violinist (1993) – 20" x 16"

Visions (1993) – 24" x 36"

Work Influenced by Hurricane Ivan (2005) – 60" x 48"

This painting stemmed from Youngblood's desire to show a fellow painter what could happen to an abstract painting if they used vibrant colors. It was painted during the titular hurricane, while the artist was stuck inside for several days. As is the case with many of the paintings in this exhibit, it is a result of the artist's finding inspiration in current events.

CATALOG CREDITS

Leigh LaMon: graphic elements, font design.

Lizzie Zucker Saltz: editing, essay and layout.

Ashley Westpheling: editing, interview with the artist, catalog proofing, checklist information.

Judith McWillie & David Zucker Saltz: catalog proofing & editing.

CURATOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Lizzie Zucker Saltz exhibited nationally as a sculptor and installation artist for a decade. She is the Artistic Director of ATHICA: Athens Institute for Contemporary Art, Inc., which opened its doors in 2002. She founded ATHICA after familiarizing herself with the local art scene, writing art reviews and features for *Flagpole Magazine* from 1998 to 2000. She has also written for the international, non-profit *Art Papers Magazine*, publishing reviews and new stories intensively from 1998 to 2003, with two feature articles published in 2005. As a freelance curator she has developed exhibits for the Athens area since 2000, such as *Rock Art: An Exhibit Of Visual Art by Athens Musicians* (with Melissa Link) and *Eclectic Electric: An Exhibit Of Electronic And Digital Art*, both held at the Lyndon House Art Center. She curated many of the exhibits at ATHICA and serves as Senior Curator on all. She received her MFA from San Jose State University in 1993. Shortly after she moved to Athens, GA with her spouse, David Z. Saltz—currently the head of the UGA Department of Theatre & Film Studies—they collaborated on several large-scale New Media projects, which exhibited at the Georgia Museum of Art (2000), The Sweeney Gallery in Riverside in CA (2002), Presbyterian College in SC and the Detroit MONA (2003). They have two children.

ASSISTANT CURATOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Ashley Westpheling is an upcoming second year student at the University of Georgia. She is a Lamar Dodd Studio Art Major, with an emphasis in Jewelry/Metalwork and an Art History Minor. Ashley is from Lawrenceville, Georgia and moved to Athens Fall 2010. She began interning with ATHICA in January 2011. This is her debut curatorial turn.

INSTALLATION VOLUNTEERS

Rachel Hill, Laine Presley, Austin Smith

AFFILIATED EVENTS

Saturday, July 9th | 7:00–9:00 p.m. | **Reception with the Artist**

Thursday, July 14th | 7:00–8:00 p.m. | **Walk & Talk**
Discuss the exhibit informally with guest commentator Brian Hitzelberger,
artist Maxine Youngblood, curator Lizzie Zucker Saltz, and assistant curator Ashley Westpheling

Sunday, July 24th | 4:00–6:00 p.m. | **Closing Day**
4:00 – Panel discussion with artist and curators
5:00 – Reception with the artist

UPCOMING AT ATHICA

August 20th – September 18th, 2011 | **The ATHICA Mystery Triennial**
Opening Reception | Saturday, August 20th | 7:00–9:30 p.m. | 7:00–8:00 p.m. – \$10 First Crack!
| An invitational small works exhibit of signature Athens area artists;
see over 100 of our finest artists all in one place at one time.
| Find out ‘who dunnit’ when you donate!
| All works will go for a donation of \$60 for one, \$100 for two.
| All works are a half-page size. | Come celebrate Athens art & help ATHICA thrive!

October 1st – November 6th, 2011 | **Selections from the ATHICA Mystery Triennial**
Opening Reception | Saturday, October 1st | 7:00–9:00 p.m.
An exhibit of two to four artists selected from the ATHICA Mystery
Triennial by People’s Choice Award and a Board Choice Award.

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