

ULRICH

MUSEUM OF ART



Lori Nix, *Natural History*, from the series *The City*, 2005. Chromogenic archival print, 21 x 62 in. Courtesy of ClampArt. New York

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FALL EXHIBITION AT ULRICH MUSEUM EXPLORES HUMAN IMPACT ON EARTH, AS BOTH PROBLEM AND SOLUTION

Nature's Toolbox: Biodiversity, Art and Invention to be celebrated at Fall Party on September 14

EXHIBITION: *Nature's Toolbox: Biodiversity, Art and Invention*

VENUE: Ulrich Museum of Art at Wichita State University, 1845 Fairmount, Wichita, KS 67260

LOCATION: Amsden, Polk/Wilson galleries

DATES: August 31–December 15, 2013

FALL PARTY: 7 p.m., September 14, 2013

WICHITA, KAN.— The Ulrich Museum of Art connects art and science in [Nature's Toolbox: Biodiversity, Art and Invention](#), an exhibition of the contemporary works of more than 40 international artists in media ranging from 3D animation and video sculpture, to an installation of more than 90,000 wooden chopsticks. The exhibition is on view August 31–December 15 in the Amsden and Polk/Wilson galleries, and will be celebrated at the Fall Party at 7 p.m., Saturday, September 14.

Nature's Toolbox invites visitors to explore and appreciate the life-or-death interdependence between the 10-20 million species on earth—including humans—and the quality of the environment we share.

Featuring contemporary artists including Donna Keiko Ozawa, Isabella Rossellini, Isabella Kirkland, Lori Nix, and Antonio Briceño, the engaging works in *Nature's Toolbox* demonstrate both the challenging issues facing us all, and our need to learn from nature as we tackle these challenges now and into the future. The exhibition premiered at The Field Museum in Chicago in 2012 and was organized by the nonprofit organization [Art Works for Change](#).

Art Works for Change (AWFC) produces traveling contemporary art exhibitions addressing critical social issues facing the global community, such as social justice, human rights, gender equity and environmental sustainability.

Through its partnerships with museums, advocacy and educational organizations, AWFC utilizes the transformative power of art to foster social change by promoting awareness and provoking dialogue and action in communities.

Running in conjunction with *Nature's Toolbox* will be new permanent collection exhibition, *Under New Management*, opening September 11 in the Beren gallery. The exhibition was curated by Ulrich director Bob Workman and curator of modern and contemporary art Jodi Throckmorton, as a celebration of the recent organizational changes, and subsequent period of exploration and transition at the Ulrich Museum.

Nature's Toolbox is supported by a full program of events throughout the fall season, beginning with a keynote talk by TED-Talk presenter and science writer Margaret Wertheim at 7 p.m. Friday, September 13 in the WSU Campus Activities Center Theater, and Fall Party at 7 p.m. Saturday, September 14 at the Ulrich. The keynote talk is free and open to the public. The Fall Party is free for Ulrich members and WSU students, and \$10 for the general public.

For more information about *Nature's Toolbox: Biodiversity, Art and Invention*, visit:
www.ulrich.wichita.edu/naturestoolbox

For high resolution press images and captions, visit:
<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/s0cram89zqb36vb/udTbobgn5z>

SUPPORTING PROGRAMS FOR NATURE'S TOOLBOX

All programs free and open to the public unless noted otherwise

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 7 P.M.

NATURE'S TOOLBOX KEYNOTE TALK: Margaret Wertheim

The Beautiful Math of Coral

WSU Campus Activities Center Theater

TED-Talk presenter and science writer Margaret Wertheim finds beauty at the intersection of nature, math, and physics. Her *Crocheted Coral Reef* project has been exhibited around the world including at the Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh, and the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C. Wertheim has authored several books on the cultural history of physics, is an Op-Ed contributor to the *Los Angeles Times*, and has written for the *New York Times*.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 7-9 P.M.

FALL PARTY

Meet, mingle, and celebrate the 2013 fall exhibitions. And as always at Ulrich openings, expect the unexpected. To make a reservation (free for Ulrich Museum members and WSU students, \$10 for general public), call (316) 978-3664, or email ulrich@wichita.edu.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 4-8 P.M.

LIVE DEMONSTRATION/RECEPTION: *Rangoli: A Celebration of Color and Culture*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1-5 P.M.

RANGOLI ON VIEW

Colorful and intricate, transitory and short-lived, the traditional art form of *rangoli*, or threshold painting, is a hallmark of Indian culture. Inspired by abstract motifs and utilizing materials such as dyed sand, rice, and flowers,

these intricately designed floor paintings vary in style from region to region. WSU's Association of Hindu Students in America partners with the Ulrich Museum of Art to bring this ephemeral art form to campus.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 6 P.M.

NATURE'S TOOLBOX ARTIST TALK: Lori Nix

Accidentally Kansas

210 McKnight West, School of Art and Design

Displaying a world somewhere between reality and illusion, Lori Nix breaks the mold set by many photographers, constructing elaborate dioramas then photographing them without the benefit of digital alterations. Hailing from rural Kansas, Nix lives and works in Brooklyn, N.Y. Her work can be viewed in the collections of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16

10 A.M. REFRESHMENTS, 10:30 A.M. PROGRAM

SENIOR WEDNESDAY: David E. Seibel

Ornithologists, Artists, and Bird Paparazzi of Kansas

Ornithologist and professor of life sciences and Johnson County Community College David Seibel, examines the rich and colorful history of ornithology as a profession in Kansas and the significant contributions of artists, photographers, and cinematographers who focus on birds as their subjects.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8 AND SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9

SYMPOSIUM: *Nature's Impact, Art's Force*

Ulrich Museum of Art and Wichita Art Museum

The Ulrich Museum of Art and Wichita Art Museum partner for a two-day forum of presentations and conversation. Join the think-tank as we consider today's artistic commentary on nature, ecology, and technology. The paired exhibitions—*Nature's Toolbox: Biodiversity, Art and Invention* at the Ulrich and *Vital Signs: New Media Art from the San Jose Museum of Art* at WAM—present exceptional work by leading artists as they investigate expansive notions of the environment and man's place within it.

Nature's Toolbox: Biodiversity, Art and Invention was organized by Art Works for Change, Inc., with generous support from The Nathan Cummings Foundation; the National Endowment for the Arts; the Adobe Foundation; and the Sprint Foundation. The Wichita presentation of this exhibition is generously supported by the S.M. and Laura H. Brown Trust; Spirit AeroSystems; Richard D. Smith and Sondra M. Langel; William T. Kemper Foundation—Commerce Bank, Trustee; Commerce Bancshares Foundation; Emprise Bank; and Lee and Ron Starkel.

All Ulrich Museum programs and exhibitions are made possible in part by Wichita State University and the City of Wichita.

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