

CMCA

Center for Maine Contemporary Art

162 Russell Avenue, PO Box 147, Rockport, Maine 04856
Tel: 207.236.2875 Fax: 207.236.2490 www.cmcanow.org

Contact: Britta Konau x302

Newly Opening Exhibitions

<i>Flower Power</i>	January 11-February 21, 2009
<i>Anna Hepler: Gyre</i>	January 11-March 21, 2009
<i>Melinda Barnes: Fictitious Rambling</i>	January 11-March 14, 2009
<i>Jannetta Jennings: Liberty Canning Factory</i>	January 11-March 14, 2009

Related Events:

Saturday, January 10, 2-4 pm	Opening Reception
Sunday, January 25, 2 pm	<i>Flower Power</i> Roundtable Discussion free for CMCA Members or with gallery admission
Sunday, February 8, 2 pm	Gallery Talk with Anna Hepler free for CMCA Members or with gallery admission

For Immediate Release

CMCA Starts the New Year with Powerful Flowers

The Center for Maine Contemporary Art (CMCA) will welcome the new year with four exciting exhibitions that show the broad range of art being created in Maine today. From fine art and craft, to a site-specific installation, CMCA has something for everyone to enjoy and appreciate. All exhibitions open to the public on January 11 with a reception on Saturday, January 10 from 2-4 pm.

In the Main Gallery, ***Flower Power*** brings together artists working in various media on the subject of flowers. The artworks' bright colors and exuberant forms will afford a welcome relief from the winter doldrums and a foretaste of warmer days ahead. Combining fine and craft artists, this exhibition includes fourteen individuals working in metal, found objects, wire, paper, encaustic, photography, ceramics, painting, and fabric. All of them have explored flowers for sustained periods of time and their observations range from botanical accuracy to flights of fancy. Accompanied by descriptions provided by the Rockport Garden Club, this exhibition is a visual as well as horticultural delight. Members of the Club have collected information about the actual flowers represented and used their imagination for some of the more fantastical creations. Artists in the exhibition are Judith Allen-Efstathiou, Lucy Breslin, Susan Van Campen, Lois Dodd, Lauren Fensterstock, Penny Gentle, Beverly Hallam, Connie Hayes, Sara Lemieux, Leslie Pontz, Pat Plourde, Isidore Seltzer, Joyce Tenneson, and Shoshannah White. *Flower Power* was organized by curator Britta Konau in collaboration with Barbara Michelena, a graphics and interior designer, and an organizer of CMCA's *Work of the Hand* crafts show. The exhibition is on view until February 21, and will be explored in a Roundtable Discussion on Sunday, January 25, at 2 pm (free for CMCA Members or with gallery admission).

CMCA's Loft Gallery houses ***Gyre***, a site-specific installation by **Anna Hepler**. Composed of sewn sheet plastic and tarps, the multi-layered and latticed structure hangs from the ceiling throughout the length of the gallery. Both beautiful and vaguely discomfiting, the suspended form twists and turns, becoming denser in space as if pulled into a silent vortex.

Hepler is known for her large and small-scale sculpture, drawings and prints, and exhibits nationally and internationally. She has received numerous grants and awards, including a Good Idea Grant from the Maine Arts Commission, and residencies at Penland School in North Carolina and Open Satellite in Washington State. Hepler is currently Visiting Assistant Professor of Art at Bowdoin College. *Gyre* will be on view until March 21 and the artist will give a Gallery Talk on Sunday, February 8 at 2 pm (free for CMCA Members or with gallery admission). Concurrent with CMCA's installation, the Perimeter Gallery at Belfast's Chase's Daily is showing recent works on paper by Anna Hepler from January 13 through March 1.

On view in the downstairs Tucker Gallery is ***Melinda Barnes: Fictitious Rambling***. Melinda Barnes was awarded this exhibition as the 2008 CMCA Biennial Jurors' Prize recipient. Her small graphite drawings of ordinary subjects serve as evidence of the artist's fictitious wanderings. The approximately 25 images evoke snapshots in their composition and implied personal narratives, yet they remain mysteriously cool and remote. We never learn much about this traveler, through whose eyes we perceive the world in these black-and-white images. Barnes is a young emerging artist who had a solo show at Portland's

Whitney Art Works in 2006. CMCA's *Fictitious Rambling* will be on display until March 14.

The photography exhibition ***Jannetta Jennings: Liberty Canning Factory*** fills the Bruce Brown Gallery with images that recall an element of Maine's industrial and agricultural past. Jannetta Jennings has been photographing the former Liberty Canning Factory for over a year. From this extended series of images fourteen digital prints are included in this exhibition. Almost monochromatic studies, these images capture the slow disintegration of the factory buildings and their immediate surroundings, documenting a part of local history. The factory was in operation from the early 1900s to the mid-1950s, canning local corn and blueberries. This tribute to days past will be on display until March 14.



left to right: Shoshannah White, Protea, 2008; Anna Hepler, Gyre (detail), 2009

For print-ready images, please call 207-236-2875 x302

The Center for Maine Contemporary Art (CMCA) is a nonprofit organization advancing contemporary art in Maine through exhibitions and educational programs. CMCA is located at 162 Russell Avenue in downtown Rockport. Winter Hours (through Memorial Day) are Thursday through Saturday, 10 am-5 pm. Sunday, 1-5 pm. Closed Monday-Wednesday. General admission is \$5.00. Admission is free for members, Rockport residents and children. The facilities are fully wheelchair accessible. For more information phone 207-236-2875 or consult the website at www.cmcanow.org.