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Paintings, metal work to be featured in HFA Gallery

Summary:

(October 13, 2004)-Esmé Thompson's paintings are radiant celebrations of color and design. Beautifully nuanced hues move nimbly through intriguing transformation of line and shape. Thompson links patterns found in nature (in the microcosm of a cell, for example) with aspects of man-made design (like the macrocosm of architecture). She reminds us that in art, as in nature, simple patterns often organize complex structures.

Tedd R. McDonah and Becky I. Chader are both metal work artists who strive to elevate Midwestern themes of daily life to a higher status.

Thompson's work -- New Paintings -- will be exhibited in the Main Gallery, and McDonah and Chader's work -- A (P)Parent Appreciation -- in the Mezzanine Gallery, both in the Humanities Fine Arts building at the University of Minnesota, Morris October 25-December 15. McDonah and Chader will give an Artist Talk starting at 3 p.m. October 25 in HFA 6. The opening in the HFA Gallery will follow directly after the talk.

Gallery hours for the exhibition are Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturday, 1-5 p.m.

Thompson stated "My paintings emphasize dynamic connection revealing the links that knit complex, seemingly disconnected worlds together. The patterns and shapes that repeat throughout my work form an internal dynamic and a sense of mutable, shifting space. The painting becomes a journey that continues to unfold, reminiscent of an ongoing pattern of organic growth."

Thompson received a master of arts in painting from the University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa in 1976, as well as a master's in fine arts in painting from Yale University, New Haven, Conn. in 1978. Her many exhibitions include 55 Mercer Gallery, N.Y. Fitchburg Museum & Duxbury Art Museum, Ma and Second Street Gallery, Va. She has been a resident of the Rockefeller Foundation and the Bogliasco Foundation in Italy. She lives in New Hampshire and is professor of studio art at Dartmouth College.

Using jewelry-making techniques, McDonah makes brilliantly designed hand crafted fishing lures. He takes the fishing lure and raises it to a status beyond utilitarianism. Why fishing lures? He states: "I perceive jewelry and fishing lures to be quite similar in some respects. First there is the attention-getting factor, sustaining interest, and then, the not-so-obvious, social status symbols."

McDonah received a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin, LaCrosse, in 1996 and a master's in fine arts degree from Arizona State University in 2001. His exhibitions include Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, OH Takashimaya Department Store Gallery, Tokyo, Japan, and many others. His awards include Outstanding Metalsmithing Award, 1997,1996,1995, and other numerous awards.

By using historic reliquary forms and other forms of presentation of venerated objects, Chader's intricately designed pieces take items and elevate them to a level of ritual reverence. She states about her work: "My intention is to elevate the ordinary to the ritual level. These creations strive to heighten awareness of habitual performances, products and surroundings by using blatant glorification. The container can draw attention to, place importance on and affect the perception of the simplest objects."

Chader received a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin, LaCrosse, in 1995 and a master's in fine arts degree from Arizona State University in 2000. Her exhibitions include the Space 237 Gallery & Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, Ohio Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Fort Wayne, Ind., and several others. Her awards include the Authors & Artists Award, 2003 Arizona Designer Craftsman Scholarship, 2000 and other numerous awards.

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