Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art News

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The Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art (BFSDoArt) is proud to present *Behind the Image*, an exhibition that explores the relationship between an artist’s source material and the final object. The exhibition opened **October 25 and run through Tuesday, November 30, 2010** in the Contemporary Gallery at the Center for Art & Theatre, Georgia Southern University. **Wednesday, November 3, from 5-7pm**, Gallery Director, Marc Mitchell, will guide an informal gallery talk discussing the images, artists, and ideas that shaped this exhibition. The department will also host a reception on **Friday, November 12, from 5-7pm**.

*Behind the Image* features the work of six established artists who live, work, or teach in Boston and New York City. The exhibition highlights the various inspirations and processes utilized by these artists to produce their specific artwork. Displayed with the finished objects are materials that were used by the artists to develop their content and imagery.

“Artwork is often created in a solitary environment and the final product is the only object that viewers ever see,” said Mitchell, “This exhibition is a wonderful chance for students, faculty, staff, and the general public to see how ideas start
small and build into something far more complex. Frequently, interests outside the studio play a pivotal role in what artists produce for many years to come.”

*Behind the Image* features artists Hannah Barrett, Dana Clancy, Lisa Costanzo, John Guthrie, Cristi Rinklin, and Joe Wardwell. This exhibition was co-organized by Marc Mitchell, Gallery Director and Assistant Professor at the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art, Georgia Southern University and James Hull, Gallery Director at the New England School of Art and Design, Suffolk University.

**About the Artists**

**Hannah Barrett** utilizes the traditional practice of portraiture to challenge gender notions, prejudices, and incestuous tendencies. Her artwork often morphs the features of both sexes into one image that questions society’s conventions regarding male and female. The source material for her images comes from photographs of historical figures and family members.

**Dana Clancy** is interested in the notion of observing and being observed. Based on photographs taken while visiting cultural museums, her paintings often make visitors to the institutions the subject of the artwork. Her photographic studies of contemporary museum architecture combine traditional Dutch genre scenes and Eastern figuration resulting in paintings that are academic, yet feel very contemporary in their approach and execution.

**Lisa Costanzo** is interested in the role that historical conventions and fashion play in contemporary culture. By combining traditional Victorian portraiture with modern sources such as photographs, fashion magazines, and cartoons, she exploits the relationship between traditional societal norms and the daily life of a contemporary woman.

**John Guthrie** creates elaborate watercolor drawings that are based on the notion of fetishism. Trained as an aerospace engineer, and having worked in submarine acoustics for many years, he continues to apply mathematic principles and scientific process to his intricate drawings. The eight drawings displayed here, all from the series *Fetish Drawings*, are based on such subjects as hair, wigs, and clothing.

**Cristi Rinklin** combines the “Digital Age” with the “American Sublime”. Her paintings are influenced by the aesthetics of Baroque painting, 19th century American Landscape painting, Asian Prints, and more recently by filmmakers and software designers. Digital technology and various painting techniques are used to construct landscapes that seduce the viewer into believing that impossible spaces can exist.

**Joe Wardwell** explores the interaction of text and image by inserting rock ‘n’ roll lyrics across landscapes that recall Albert Bierstadt’s naturalistic views of the America. Wardwell’s paintings, however linked to musical bands or specific locations, speak more to the broad contemporary issues that face our society. The result is often paintings that have a balance of irony and social commentary.
All events are free and open to the public. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Georgia Southern University will honor requests for reasonable accommodations. For more information contact the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art at (912) GSU.ARTS or online at http://class.georgiasouthern.edu/art

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