

Step into a Masterpiece

theMcNay

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Prominent Photographer Sandy Skoglund Presents Distinguished Lecture at the McNay

San Antonio, TX – As part of the Distinguished Lecture Series at the McNay Art Museum, surrealist Sandy Skoglund will present two lectures on June 12, 2008, in the new Chiego Lecture Hall. Skoglund's presentation, titled *Reality Under Siege*, will take audience members on a journey through a collision of colorful and contrasting worlds central to her sculpture and photographs. In order to accommodate the large crowds that her lectures draw, Skoglund will speak at 2 and 7 p.m.

By infusing commercial photography with her interest in popular culture, Skoglund developed an innovative way to combine fantasy with reality through constructed photographs that paved the way for photography today. Skoglund's international reputation precedes her, as many of her works are featured in collections worldwide.

Gathering Paradise, created in 1991, was acquired by the McNay in 2006, with funds from the McNay Contemporary Collectors Forum. The large Cibachrome photograph adds to the museum's growing collection of contemporary photo-based works. With its acidic pink walls and vibrant purple squirrels ransacking the unaware humans' home, Chief Curator Rene Paul Barilleaux sights a storybook quality in the work with which he believes all people can connect.

"I find that people can relate to the feeling that nature is taking over, that nature has its own rhythms and patterns that we cannot control," says Barilleaux.

Skoglund was invited to speak as part of the Distinguished Lecture Series after the museum acquired her photograph. Her lecture will consist primarily of her interests in photography.

In addition, Skoglund will host a workshop for area teachers from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on June 12, at which time she will work with educators to create a unique installation made out of AT&T telephone wire. Each educator will build a wire creature based on their own psychological self-portrait. The finished installation is one of the first presentations in the new Valero Learning Centers, on view through July 13. In true McNay fashion, an ice-cream reception will be held at the conclusion of the workshop, 3 to 4 p.m., where the public is invited to discuss Skoglund's work with the artist herself.

Sandy Skoglund's own artistic journey began in the town of Northampton, Massachusetts, where she studied studio art and art history at Smith College from 1964 – 68. Upon acquiring her Bachelor

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degree, Skoglund went on to graduate studies at the University of Iowa where she obtained her MA in 1971 and her M.F.A. in painting in 1972. In 1973, Skoglund moved to New York City where she began as a conceptual artist. Soon after, Skoglund found her true artistic calling in photography and her career developed as she learned more about documenting conceptual ideas. Eventually, photography and Skoglund's interests in popular culture collided creating the art for which she is known today.

This lecture is sponsored by the Ewing Halsell Foundation Endowment.

About the McNay

Built by artist and educator Marion Koogler McNay in the 1920s, the Spanish Colonial Revival-style home opened as Texas' first museum of modern art in 1954. Today more than 100,000 visitors a year enjoy works by 20th-century masters including Paul Gauguin, Vincent van Gogh, Edward Hopper, Georgia O'Keeffe, Pablo Picasso, Jackson Pollock, and Pierre-Auguste Renoir. In June 2008, the museum opened the 45,000-square-foot Jane and Arthur Stieren Center for Exhibition designed by internationally renowned French architect Jean-Paul Viguier. Nearly doubling the McNay's exhibition space, the Stieren Center includes three separate outdoor sculpture galleries, the first in South Texas.

Museum hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10 am – 4 pm; Thursday, 10 am – 9 pm; Saturday, 10 am – 5 pm; and Sunday, noon – 5 pm. Admission: McNay members – free; Children 12 and under – free; Adults -- \$8; Seniors -- \$5; Students with I.D. -- \$5; Active military -- \$5. The museum is free to the public every Thursday evening from 4 pm until 9 pm and on the first Sunday of the month.

The McNay is closed on Mondays, New Year's Day, July 4, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

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