



Rochester Contemporary Art Center

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hours: Wed – Sun 1-5 pm / Fri 1-9pm
admission: \$2 / free for members



NEWS RELEASE

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Makers & Mentors

New exhibition celebrates the artwork and career of Sheldon Berlyn.

February 5 – March 13, 2016

Opening Reception: February 5, 6-9pm

Artists' Talk: Saturday, February 6 at 1pm

First Friday: March 4, 6-9pm

(01/02/16) Rochester, NY --- Rochester Contemporary Art Center (RoCo) is pleased to announce *Makers & Mentors*, an exhibition of new works by influential artist/educator Sheldon Berlyn and 4 of his former students. This year, *Makers & Mentors* 2016 brings together a diverse selection of works by Sheldon Berlyn (Penn Yan, NY), Russell Floersch (New York, NY), Juan Perdigero (Oswego, NY/Madrid, SP), Kathleen Sherin (Buffalo, NY), and Gerardo Tan (Manila, PH). All four artists studied with Berlyn during his tenure at the State University of New York at Buffalo from 1962-1999 as Associate Professor of Drawing and Painting. In its 9th year, RoCo's *Makers & Mentors* exhibition series highlights an established, influential artist in the area while also furthering a dialog about the importance of art education in the Central / Western NY Region.

Berlyn has received significant local and national recognition for his abstract paintings. Berlyn's work has been shown around the country, including solo exhibitions at Albright-Knox Art Gallery (Buffalo, NY), Nancy Kay Gallery (San Diego, CA), and the deCordova Museum (Lincoln, MA). He has exhibited in many group exhibitions at institutions including The Memorial Art Gallery (Rochester, NY), Burchfield-Penney Art Center (Buffalo, NY), Nancy Margolis Gallery (Chelsea, NYC), Rodman Art Center (Ontario, Canada), and Auslands Institute (Dortmund, Germany). His work is included in public collections at The Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Burchfield-Penney Art Center, Columbus Museum (Columbus, GA), Kennedy Museum of Art (Athens, OH), Dayton Art Institute (Dayton, OH), and the Worcester Art Museum (Worcester, MA), among others.

Russell Floersch's multi-media works are built up with layers of paint over a period of time. Floersch is concerned with form and uses unique extensions of the canvas. The artist aims to have his works function as a place for the viewer to engage. His paintings are informed by landscape, and his memories of simple gestures and fleeting moments. Floersch has exhibited at Stux Gallery (NYC), Galerie oqbo (Berlin, Germany), Seibu Gallery (Tokyo, Japan), and Hallwalls Gallery (Buffalo, NY), among many other national and international venues.

Juan Perdigero's mixed media, hand-renderings of animals and humans incorporate elements of psychology and spirituality. Perdigero's unique methods and carefully executed drawings push the boundary between classical and contemporary art while maintaining their roots in tradition. Perdigero is a Professor of Drawing at SUNY Oswego. His work is represented in many collections including Burchfield-Penney Art Center (Buffalo, New York) and he has shown at numerous museums and galleries including Galeria 3 Punts (Barcelona, Spain), Marcia Wood Gallery (Atlanta, GA), and Memorial Art Gallery (Rochester, NY).

Kathleen Sherin is an artist and educator living in Buffalo, NY. Her print works have evolved from primarily lithography to encompass numerous other methods and techniques. Sherin's bold prints employ contrast, shadow and micro-macro complexity in several ongoing series. *Makers & Mentors* includes the most recent pieces in her ongoing ABC-XYZ carborundum print series. Sherin teaches at multiple colleges including Rochester Institute of Technology. Sherin's work has been exhibited at regional and national galleries including Carnegie Art Center (North Tonawanda, NY) and Women's Studio Workshop (Rosendale, NY).

Gerardo Tan is a collage artist and painter living and working in Manila, Philippines. Tan's complex, layered style grew out of his graduate thesis exhibition which he completed under the mentorship of Sheldon Berlyn. Tan's works reference topics of image reproduction, mass media and include re-contextualized biographical content. Tan is a Fulbright Fellow with works in collections such as The Singapore Art Museum and Burchfield Penney Art Center (Buffalo, NY).

Rochester Contemporary Art Center (RoCo) is a venue for the exchange of ideas and a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) that was founded in 1977. As a center for thoughtful contemporary art, RoCo provides unique encounters for audiences and extraordinary opportunities for artists.