

University Gallery

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Sheron Rupp: Dialogue with a Collection
February 5 – March 29, 2009

Opening Reception:
Thursday, February 5, 5:00 – 7:30pm

In Conversation:
Wednesday, February 25, 5:00pm
Artist Sheron Rupp discusses her exhibition with art critic Gloria Russell*

The University Gallery is pleased to present "***Sheron Rupp: Dialogue with a Collection***", the second exhibition in an annual series in which we invite an artist to study the permanent collection first-hand and curate an exhibition from our holdings, and to integrate their own works in direct dialogue within the exhibition.

This year, Northampton photographer Sheron Rupp was invited to browse through the University Gallery's works-on-paper collection of over 2400 contemporary prints, drawings, and photographs. She spent over six months, allowing herself free range of subject matter and selecting works that resonate with one another. The featured works range from photographs by Jan Groover and Ralph Eugene Meatyard to prints and drawings by Judy Pfaff and Theodore Stamos.

On one level, "***Dialogue with a Collection***" is an innovative experiment, offering a chance for the artworks to be exposed to visitors who may not know about the University Gallery's collection, and for them to view it through an artist's eyes. Sheron Rupp's idiosyncratic selection provides unexpected juxtapositions and conversations between her own works with those in the permanent collection. In choosing these particular artworks, the artist reveals her inspirations and her individuality.

The exhibition also affords the opportunity to premiere Sheron Rupp's recent color photographs of formal and social landscapes. In these photographs, Rupp conveys her sense of color, nuances of description, and an interest in the quotidian. "*This newer work is not really that large a change from photographing people and place*", the artist said, "*but marks a return to my beginning interests in photographing landscapes, the formal lay-of-the-land. I've always been drawn to the earth, first.*"

Sheron Rupp received an M.F.A. in photography from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst (a program combined with Hampshire College in the early 1980's), where she studied with Jerome Liebling, Elaine Mayes, and Abraham Ravett. Her photographs have been exhibited at museums such as the Museum of Modern Art, the J. Paul Getty Museum, Cleveland Museum of Art, Boston Museum of Fine Arts, and DeCordova Museum, among others.

**SALON 08/09* -- a new collaborative initiative sponsored by A.P.E, University Gallery, and wunderarts -- offers patrons, artists, and gallery-goers an opportunity to engage in dialogue. Art critic Gloria Russell, former critic for *The Republican* and *Art New England*, will interview artists whose works are currently on view and invite members of the public to participate in the conversation.