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**For Immediate Release
Upcoming Exhibition**



Luis Gispert & Jeffrey Reed, *Blasterettes* (detail), 2004, Fujiflex print, 27" x 39", courtesy of the artists

MANIFEST

COLONIAL TENDENCIES OF THE WEST

Exhibition Dates: September 14 – November 17, 2007

Supporter Reception: Friday, September 14, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Public Reception: Friday, September 14, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Location: Gallery of Contemporary, UCCS

Admission: FREE and open to the public

Tags: Multicultural, African American, Cuban-American, Ghana, Japanese-Canadian, Chinese-American, Colonial, Urban, Suburbs, Hybrid Cultures, Video Game, Photography, Sculpture, Painting, Video Art

Colorado Springs, August, 2007 – The Gallery of Contemporary Art, UCCS presents **Manifest: Colonial Tendencies of the West**, an exhibition that explores the concept of colonialism from political, social, geographic, and commercial standpoints. The exhibition will be on view from September 14 through November 17, 2007. It is the first exhibition curated for UCCS by Christopher Lynn, Director, Gallery of Contemporary Art.

Colonialism is a term used to describe the occupation of an area by a group of people who then impose rule or influence over the previous inhabitants. People may occupy ideas, commerce, and social settings in the same way that they may occupy land. Copyright law that allows people to lay claim to ideas, high school cliques that govern social boundaries, and commercial exports that dominate corners of the market are all forms of colonialism.

A clear example of the West's colonial tendencies is found in the Manifest Destiny - a slogan and doctrine promoted in the 1800's that stated America's divine right to push West and absorb lands by force if necessary. This mentality, although not actively promoted, is still a driving force in the West's relationship to the world. The West exports its people, politics, culture and products to occupy and influence the land, minds and markets of the world.

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Colonization often results in hybrid cultures when competing customs clash. Anime is the result of the export of American animation to the Japan which in turn took what it liked, added its own style and subjects and exported it to the West where it is wildly popular. Cheerleader culture is absorbed and modified by American minority youth to make something quite different from its white bread origins.

Manifest: Colonial Tendencies of the West will feature approximately thirty works by artists from around the globe. Each artist in ***Manifest*** takes the benign and aggressive aspects of Western colonization and makes manifest the resulting mixtures of culture, politics, and commerce. ***Manifest*** presents work by Philip Kwame Apagya, Amy Chan, Luis Gispert and Jeffrey Reed, Patti Hallock, Danny Ledonne, Louise Noguchi, and Kehinde Wiley. The exhibition features documentary photographs of Wild West recreation villages, a film that hypes American stereotypes, paintings of franchise restaurants dropped into pastoral landscapes, a video game that deals with the Columbine Massacre, paintings and sculpture of hip-hop culture, photographs that document suburban basements, and portraits of Ghanaian citizens taken in front of backdrops depicting their dream lives filled with Western exports.

“This exhibition will be a major step forward for the contemporary art scene in Colorado Springs,” said Christopher Lynn, Director of the Gallery of Contemporary Art, UCCS. “We will be exhibiting internationally-known artists who have never shown in Colorado. ***Manifest*** tackles difficult topics in a way that we feel the public will understand and respond.”

Manifest: Colonial Tendencies of the West was curated by Christopher Lynn, Director of the Gallery of Contemporary Art, UCCS. This is Lynn’s first curated exhibition for UCCS. Previously, Lynn was the Assistant Curator of Museums and Galleries at DePauw University.

EVENTS

Pre-Show Appetizer

Thursday, August 30, 7:00 p.m.

Learn more about the artists and themes in the exhibition, *Manifest: Colonial Tendencies of the West*. Impress your family and amaze your friends with the insightful knowledge you will display at the opening reception that you picked up weeks earlier at the Pre-Show Appetizer. Regular permit parking restrictions are lifted for lots 3 and 4 during the presentation.

Opening Reception

Friday, September 14

Supporter Reception: 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. (For GoCA supporters and UCCS students)

Public Reception: 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Enjoy the festivities surrounding the opening of *Manifest: Colonial Tendencies of the West* including food, live coloring from the newly launched pages of the GoCA Coloring Book, and some of the finest contemporary art seen in the region. Regular permit parking restrictions are lifted for lots 3 and 4 during the opening reception.

Soul Mechanics: Breakdancing Informance

Friday, September 21, 6:00 p.m.

The Colorado Springs b-boy group will present an “informance” (lecture/performance) at the Gallery of Contemporary Art. Soul Mechanic’s tight breakdancing moves reveal the

myriad of cultural influences that created the phenomenon in 1970's urban environments. Join us as we learn more about breakdancing, its culture, and roots.

Anime Nation

Every Thursday between September 20 and November 15, 7:00 p.m.

Join us as we watch pivotal Anime series and movies at the Gallery of Contemporary Art, UCCS. Regular permit parking restrictions are lifted for lots 3 and 4 during the Anime screenings.

Bad Art Night: Shadowing Kara Walker

Saturday, October 20, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Create bad art in the style of Kara Walker's colonial themed silhouettes. As always, the rule at Bad Art Night is that no good art is allowed. Permit parking restrictions are not enforced at UCCS on Saturdays.

Film Night: Future Remembrance

Friday, November 9, 7:00 p.m.

Come view *Future Remembrance* (USA, 1998, color, 55 min.), a film by Tobias Wendl and Nancy du Plessis featuring *Manifest* artist Philip Kwame Apagya. This is a delightful, exuberant, documentary about the role of photography, photographers and the art of image making in Ghana. We meet the photographers, sculptors and painters who tell us in their own words about the economic, social, cultural, aesthetic, and spiritual motivations of their work. Innovation and improvisation abound, from the traveling photographer who has been making and selling his own cameras out of wood and scrap since the 1930's to the studio photographers who specialize in providing elaborate backdrops that inspire their customers poses. The influence of American print media on local artists exists but the resulting work is so transformed in the process that the original source is almost unrecognizable. *Future Remembrance* is the winner of the Award For Excellence Society for Visual Anthropology Award, Vitas Folklore Film Festival, UCLA.

Settlers of Catan-A-Thon / Exhibition Closing

Saturday, November 17, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Join us at the Gallery as we play marathon sessions of the popular board game, *Settlers of Catan*. Settle the land of Catan and harvest its natural resources to build villages and cities while oppressing your opponents for fun and profit. Permit parking restrictions are not enforced at UCCS on Saturdays.

BLURBS/RADIO SPOTS

15 Second Spot

The Gallery of Contemporary Art, UCCS features *Manifest: Colonial Tendencies of the West*, an exhibition that explores the benign and aggressive aspects of Western colonization and makes manifest the resulting mixtures of cultures, politics, and commerce. *Manifest* will be on view September 14 – November 17, 2007. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. weekdays and 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. on Saturdays. For more information call 262-3567 or visit our website at www.galleryuccs.org.

30 Second Spot

The Gallery of Contemporary Art, UCCS features *Manifest: Colonial Tendencies of the West*, an exhibition of approximately thirty works by artists from around the globe.

Each artist in ***Manifest*** explores the benign and aggressive aspects of Western colonization and makes manifest the resulting mixtures of cultures, politics, and commerce. ***Manifest*** features work by Philip Kwame Apagya, Amy Chan, Luis Gispert and Jeffrey Reed, Patti Hallock, Daniel Ledonne, Louise Noguchi, and Kehinde Wiley and will be on view September 14 – November 17, 2007. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. weekdays and 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. on Saturdays. For more information call 262-3567 or visit our website at www.galleryuccs.org.

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Images are available upon request. Please contact Christopher Lynn (clynn@uccs.edu or gallery@uccs.edu).

LOCATION AND INFORMATION

The gallery is located in the northwest corner of the Science Building's upper level. During openings, normal campus parking restrictions are suspended for lots 1, 3 and 4. Parking is free on Saturdays. Weekdays, please park in the Visitor's Lot or metered spaces.

For additional information concerning our exhibitions, programs, and membership, please call 719.262.3567 or visit our website: www.galleryuccs.org.

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