

An Exhibition Nearly 40 Years in the Making: Works of Renowned D.C. Artist Tom Green at American University Museum

Date: 02-01-2010 10:07 AM CET

Category: [Arts & Culture](#)

Press release from: [American University](#)

WASHINGTON, D.C. (January 28, 2010)—The American University Museum at the Katzen Arts Center will kick off its 2010 season on Saturday, January 23, with the first exhibition to feature nearly 40 years of work by renowned D.C. artist Tom Green.

Green taught at the Corcoran College of Art and Design for about 35 years and has been extremely influential in the Washington, D.C., art scene. During his tenure at the Corcoran, Green led a new generation of artists out of the dominance of the Washington Color School toward a more personal process and iconography.

The Washington Color School was defined in the 1950s through the 1970s by an influential group of D.C. based artists, including Kenneth Noland, Gene Davis, Morris Louis, and Paul Reed, who were central to the Color Field movement—an abstract art movement that broke from abstract expressionism by creating formal compositions of large unmodulated areas of color in monumental scale.

Green and Jack Rasmussen, director and curator of the American University Museum, were colleagues at the Corcoran.

“He is legendary because he is the consummate artist,” Rasmussen said. “He is very serious about his work, and very professional in his dealings with others, but his art always comes first.”

Green experienced early success in his career and had works in prestigious shows at the Whitney Museum of American Art and the Guggenheim in New York City. Despite this, he continued to devote himself to making art rather than chasing fame.

“This made him almost an ‘underground’ artist that young and old audiences in the know followed and respected,” Rasmussen said. “He is very knowledgeable about the contemporary art world, but he follows his own muse, not the writers in Art Forum.”

Rasmussen recalls a distinct, lifelong habit of Green’s that underscores his devotion to his art: Green always has a black sketch book with him and is always drawing in it, documenting his ideas.

“The black books that I carry around, I draw in them constantly and have since 1971,” Green said in an interview with Rasmussen for the exhibition catalog. “These inventories (what Green calls the contents of his books) are an ongoing process of coming up with ideas. This process is very central to what I do. I can’t imagine not having those books to work in.”

In addition to Tom Green: Past and Present, three other exhibitions will open at the American University Museum on Saturday, January 30.

Alan Feltus and Lani Irwin: Personal Interiors presents recent work by two artists with ties to AU’s Department of Art who now live and work in Assisi, Italy. Feltus was a faculty member and Irwin is an art alumna. The exhibition features paintings, drawings, and collages that reveal relationships of the figure in still, intimate spaces.

Robert Devers: Cult of the Hand is an interdisciplinary exploration retracing and reimagining the influences of culture, craft, and place on the artist. Through the multicultural perspective provided by the history of maiolica glaze painting (tin-glazed pottery that originated during the Renaissance), Devers maps his own journey in the form of paintings, ceramics, and installations to offer a new translation of pattern, form, and space and to provide new perspectives of cultural influence as an American artist working in Mexico and Italy.

Cream: Washington Project for the Arts Art Auction Exhibition features work by Washington Project for the Arts member artists, as well as national contemporary artists selected by top curators from some of the most important art institutions in the

country.

Cream: Washington Project for the Arts Art Auction Exhibition closes Sunday, March 6. The remaining three exhibitions close Sunday, March 14. A series of free programs, including gallery talks, will be announced separately.

MUSEUM INFORMATION, EXHIBITION HOURS, LOCATION:

The American University Museum is a three-story public museum and sculpture garden located within the university's Katzen Arts Center. The region's largest university facility for exhibiting art, the museum has a permanent collection that highlights the donors' holdings and AU's Watkins Collection. Rotating exhibitions emphasize regional, national, and international contemporary art. In October, the museum opened a retail shop that sells books, catalogs, and prints related to past and current exhibitions, as well as fine crafts and other one-of-a-kind objects. The Katzen Café is open every weekday when the museum is open.

The Katzen Arts Center brings all the visual and performing arts programs at AU into one space. Designed to foster interdisciplinary collaboration in the arts, the Katzen includes the museum, the Abramson Family Recital Hall, the Studio Theatre, a dance studio, an electronics studio, artists' studios, rehearsal space, and classrooms.

The museum, located at 4400 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20016, is open from

11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday. Museum admission is free. For more information call 202-885-ARTS (2787).

###

American University is a private doctoral institution situated in a residential neighborhood of northwest Washington, D.C. Our total fall 2008 enrollment was 12,186, with 6,023 degree-seeking undergraduates, 3,297 degree-seeking graduate students, 1,667 law students, and 1,199 students in nondegree certificate programs, Washington Semester, or AU Abroad.

We offer 57 bachelor's degrees, 51 master's degrees (not including law), 9 doctoral degrees, and 3 law degrees, as well as more than 60 certificate programs, mostly graduate level. Courses run on a 15-week semester basis in fall and spring, with shorter summer-term classes. In addition, we offer 105 study-abroad programs and alternative breaks. More than 80 percent of our undergraduates and 60 percent of our graduate students participate in at least one internship or other experiential education program.

Our student body is cosmopolitan and globally diverse, with all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and 144 countries represented. Six percent of undergraduates and 11 percent of graduate students are international.

The university's mission is carried out by 591 full-time teaching and research faculty, 69 full-time administrative and library faculty, and 1,337 full-time staff. Ninety-four percent of full-time faculty hold the highest degree in their field. Among our 500 adjunct faculty are policy makers, diplomats, journalists, artists, writers, scientists, and business leaders.

American University
University Communications
4400 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20016

aumedia@american.edu
202-885-5950

[You can find this press release here](#)