Change is good, they say. We certainly feel that way at the Ulrich, and we are embracing positive transitions and evolutions.

To start, this very newsletter represents change. We are reintroducing a printed Ulrich museum newsletter. Keep an eye out for it three times each year, bringing you news of exhibitions, public programs, and general goings-on.

Ulrich members also should be aware that we are altering how and when we celebrate new exhibitions. The museum essentially has three seasons, tied to the social calendar and academic semesters. They are fall, winter, and spring/summer. On the staff, we focus on clustering exhibitions that complement one another in our galleries for each of these seasons. We’ll kick off our new gallery presentations with a fun party—our members’ openings—three times each year in sync with the season. Often, we will be celebrating the Wichita opening for several shows simultaneously.

The Ulrich is also ramping up our public programs. Education is at the heart of every art museum, even more so for university art museums. We will more than double the number of education programs in 2007/2008, eager to engage the WSU and Wichita communities even more often and more meaningfully. Please read the Programs and Events section of this newsletter, mark your calendar, and come often to the compelling gatherings we have organized.

For many, many years, the Ulrich Museum has enjoyed the great patronage of committed supporters. This year, the museum will launch the Ulrich Salon Circle, a special program of gatherings exclusively for our generous upper-level patron members. The aim is to learn and laugh at the same time, and we already have quite a line-up of great museum leaders to chat with over the year. Please consider contributing generously to museum programs at this membership level and taking part in this lively group of curious and savvy Wichitans.

Lastly, people learn by looking at art museums. We stretch ourselves to consider new perspectives by close scrutiny of artists’ visual expressiveness. Art museums everywhere are able to open their doors because devoted, passionate patrons believe in the power of art and in the role of art museums in the life of a community. In Wichita, one such extraordinary patron is Michael Michaelis. In May, Kansas Governor Kathleen Sibelius acknowledged Mike’s long years of caring about art, giving bountifully, and inspiring others to support the arts by awarding him the state’s 2007 Arts Patron award. A short article on the story of this significant honor for a remarkable leader appears in this newsletter.

What a feast for the mind and eye we’ve organized for the fall! Come look, learn, and enjoy.

Dr. Patricia McDonnell, Director
Michael Michaelis received the 2007 Governor’s Arts Award for Arts Patron from Kathleen Sibelius. The Kansas Arts Commission organizes this award, and the recognition for Michaelis is much deserved and perhaps overdue. Michaelis has been a member of the Ulrich Museum of Art Advisory Board since 1998, serving as well as Chair of this board from 2002 to 2005. His work on behalf of the Ulrich has been tireless, helping to win more fans of contemporary art and inspiring others in Wichita to support our exhibitions and programs. Michaelis has also been integrally involved in the Wichita Art Museum and the Spencer Museum of Art. Michaelis has been that noble benefactor of art and inspiring others in Wichita to support art work on behalf of the Ulrich has been tireless, making Branded and On Display a clear choice for the Ulrich and an excellent vehicle for engaging in and reflecting upon Kansas and Wichita experiences. The Ulrich presentation is the first stop on the exhibition’s 2007–2009 national tour: Branded and On Display is organized by the Kranzler Art Museum, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and the national tour is sponsored in part by Fox Development Corporation and Kranzler Art Museum Director’s Circle Fund.

When we think of arts patrons, we think of the Medicis, the Rockefellers, even Edwin A. Ulrich. No museum in the state can compete with the history of Kansas art that Michaelis built, a strong collection on display in the corporate bank offices. Thinking about patronage again, such acquisitions give important and direct support to Kansas artists. Mike has supported art museums plus he believes in and has supported artists.

Art museums exist in large part because artists know deeply that the exhibition art brings to our lives and they give and get financial support for museum activities. Michaelis has been a star in this realm, and even the Governor says so.

Exhibitions on View

Ulrich Project: Christoph Ruckhäberle

September 22 – December 21, 2007

This art world is buzzing about new German painting, and the so-called Leipzig school heads this chart. Christoph Ruckhäberle is a star among this newest avant garde this will be his first one-person exhibition in the Midwest.

A school of painters with a certain stylistic bent emerged from Leipzig, the former East German city. They reinvented German painting by building upon the bold German expressionism of the teens and twenties, drawing from the state-mandated socialist realism of the Iron Curtain era, and referencing the West German neo-expressionists of the 1970s and 1980s. New German painting from Leipzig is technically strong, steeped in historical awareness, and pioneering the next wave of figurative realism internationally.

Branded and On Display


Ours is a culture defined by marketing and acquiring. In navigating today’s world, the landscape is stuffed with logos, brand names, and billboards — inducements to participate in a culture marked by the acquisition of goods. Attuned to the ever-shifting modes of visual representation, artists have responded to this new messaging in American life. The exhibition Branded and On Display examines the recent work of contemporary artists engaged in the strategies of branding and merchandizing. The show includes a range of media, including painting, sculpture, video, installation, and photography.

The works of art demonstrate how the forms and tactics of branding dominate our cultural awareness and visual environment. How do advertising and display strategies shape our thinking? How are complex perceptions condensed to a simple emblem or epiphany? How often are we scanned each day? Some of the leading artists today investigate such questions in this provocative exhibition. Artists include Ai Weiwei, Conrad Bakker, Amy Bartow, Ashley Bickerton, Michael Blum, Louis Cameron, Diller + Scofidio, Terence Gonick, Laura Hug, Pierre Huyghe, Clay Ketter, Ryan McGinness, Amelia Moore, Donna Nield, Haim Steinbach, Temper Wolf, Yukian Tera, Hank Willis Thomas, Brian Ulrich, Sahien Vennett, and Zhao Bandi. Wichita’s museum has long been a national leader in corporate branding and identity development, making Branded and On Display a clear choice for the Ulrich and an excellent vehicle for engaging in and reflecting upon Kansas and Wichita experiences. The Ulrich presentation is the first site on the exhibition’s 2007–2009 national tour: Branded and On Display is organized by the Kranzler Art Museum, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and the national tour is sponsored in part by Fox Development Corporation and Kranzler Art Museum Director’s Circle Fund.

Paint Party

7-9 P.M. Saturday, September 22

Join us to celebrate the suite of fall exhibitions. Hear from exhibition curators, engage in lively banter, and enjoy music and refreshments.

Free to Ulrich Museum members, $7 for non-members RSVP at 316-778-3664 or email ulrich@wichita.edu.