The Ulrich, we are always thinking creatively about ways to turn people on to art. We welcome the opportunity to bring the curator of modern and contemporary art and museum studies to our galleries. A current exhibition at the Ulrich Museum of Art is the WSU School of Art and Design 17th Faculty Biennial, which features works by students from across the globe. The exhibit opens on January 24 and runs through April 8.

In Odili Donald Odita’s dynamic paintings, seemingly countless colored wedges collide and fuse across the surface of the canvas. His energetic compositions work on colored Plexiglas surfaces, utilizing their reflective properties in his interlocking geometries and hues as meditations on his multicultural experiences. Nigerian-born and Ohio-raised, Odita draws upon a wide swath of visual imagery in his work: from television static and band patterns and mid-20th-century wallpaper patterns to memories of landscapes both local and global. Although these works are deeply personal, they also address broader themes. For Odita, the idea of fusion—a merging of diverse and distant elements into a unified whole—is crucial. He writes, “The fusion I seek is one that can represent a type of living within a world of difference. No matter the discord, I believe through art there is a way to weave the different parts into an existing whole, where metaphorically the notion of a common humanity can be understood as real.”

In his Wichita exhibition, Odita will work on colored Plexiglas surfaces, utilizing their reflective properties in his energetic compositions. Odita explains his inspiration for this installation comes from the split-second flash of light that fills a television screen just after it’s been turned on, but before the image appears. For him, this moment of pure illumination, devoid of image or sound, is both “abstraction in the purest sense” and “a point of beginning.”

Odita has exhibited his work around the globe, most recently at the 52nd Venice Biennale, the Institute of Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania, the Contemporary Arts Center in Cincinnati, and the Studio Museum in Harlem, New York. The Ulrich museum is thrilled to welcome him to Wichita as a Project Series artist.

**WSU SCHOOL OF ART AND DESIGN 17TH FACULTY BIENNIAL**

*January 24 - April 8, Polsi/Wilson Galleries*

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E-news from the Ulrich Museum is an electronic newsletter designed to keep you up-to-date on museum events, exhibitions, new acquisitions, and artists' activities. To sign up, visit www.ulrich.wichita.edu/subscribe. Subscribers may choose either an HTML or text version of the e-newsletter. Available on the website are all Ulrich Museum events—free, open to the public, and take place at the museum unless noted otherwise. For more information about museum programs, visit www.ulrich.wichita.edu/calendar.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 10-11:30 A.M.**

**SENIOR WEDNESDAY:**

Talented musicians, poets, and storytellers, griots are the custodians of oral history. Through song, dance, and the spoken word, they communicate folklore, myths, and legends. The Wichita Griots are professional storytellers who share utilizing, inspiring, and educational performances.

**FACULTY BIENNIAL ARTIST TALKS:**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, NOON-1 P.M.**

Why We Collect:

SENIOR WEDNESDAY:

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 6-8 P.M.**

**ARTIST TALK AND RECEPTION:**

**Olabi Donald Odita:**

Join in celebrating the opening of the spring season of exhibitions.

**ON THE VERGE: CONTEMPORARY CERAMICS**

APRIL 15–AUGUST 9, 2009

Across human history, ceramics have played a pivotal role in cultural meaning. Whether clay tablets, religious vessels, artifacts of decorative adornment, or objects for sheer aesthetic reward, ceramic works have contributed to material culture. On the Verge: Contemporary Ceramics presents six artists who consider ceramic tradition as they create new practices and their works to bridge the modern and ceramic, art today. On the Verge is guest curated for the Ulrich by WSU School of Art and Design Assistant Professor of Ceramics Ted Alder.

**WSU SCHOOL OF ART AND DESIGN MASTER OF FINE ARTS THESIS EXHIBITION**

MAY 2–31, 2009

The Ulrich Museum presents the work of four MFA candidates—Ryan Ho Jr., Shawn Johnston, Diane Jones, and Marcella Mark. Ho Jr., a printmaker, received his BFA from Emporia State University and is from Topeka, Kansas. Johnston, an oil painter, received her BA from Belhaven College, Jackson, Mississippi, and is from St. Louis, Missouri. Jones, a portraitist, received her BFA from Emporia State University and is from Lenexa, Kansas. Mark, a ceramicist, received her BA from Washburn University and is from Topeka, Kansas.

**MARCH**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 6 P.M.**

**ARTIST TALK:**

**Mali Chin**

210 McKnight Art Center West (WSU School of Art and Design)

Philadelphia-based artist draws upon multiple visual sources for his work. He appropriates and reimagines from television text-band patterns and mid-20th-century wallpaper as well as from memories of landscapes both local and global. Hear Odita speak about this work and its fascinating combinations. He will discuss the development of his practice and the new large-scale project made specifically for his Ulrich show, Televin.

Following the presentation, join the artist for conversation, refreshments, and gallery viewing.

**APRIL**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 4-6 P.M.**

**ARTIST TALK AND RECEPTION:**

**Olabi Donald Odita:**

210 McKnight Art Center West (WSU School of Art and Design)

 Nigerian-born and Ohio-raised, this Philadelphia-based artist draws upon multiple visual sources for his work. He appropriates and reimagines from television text-band patterns and mid-20th-century wallpaper as well as from memories of landscapes both local and global. Hear Odita speak about this work and its fascinating combinations. He will discuss the development of his practice and the new large-scale project made specifically for his Ulrich show, Televin.

Following the presentation, join the artist for conversation, refreshments, and gallery viewing.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 10-11:30 A.M.**

**SENIOR WEDNESDAY:**

Patterning and Rhythms join together to become music; the visual arts have a beat of their own. Discover that rhythm firsthand with Walshuck percussionist Matt Maholland in the new Ulrich exhibition by Oddi Donald Odita. Providing instruments for audience members, Maholland creates a unique, live, interactive experience that experiments with beat, pace, time, and tempo—all inspired by the vibrant colors and dynamic, colliding shapes in Odita’s paintings. Discover the musician in yourself in this participatory Senior Wednesday. Maholland heads the Percussion Program at Friends University and the Steel Band and Djembé Ensemble at WSU.

**April 15**

Mali Chin

From Art 21: Art in the Twenty-First Century (courtesy of Art:21, Inc.)

**MARCH**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 6-8 P.M.**

**FACULTY BIENNIAL ARTIST TALKS:**

Looking Through the Surface with Barry Badgett

associate professor of sculpture, and Olabi Donald Odita with Diane Thomas-Lincoln, assistant professor of painting and drawing and director of Art and Design’s decorative and ornamental program.

**Barry Badgett** uses translucent surfaces in sculpture to interpret personal experiences, hemans describes his recent involvement in the World: The Archaeologist’s Responsibilities from the National Endowment for the Arts to the proposed work around the world. Chin is an internationally acclaimed artist featured in Season One of Art:21 by bringing Mel Chin to Wichita. Chin is an internationally acclaimed artist of Season Five in Fall 2009 by bringing Mel Chin to Wichita. Chin is an internationally acclaimed artist of Season Five in Fall 2009 by bringing Mel Chin to Wichita. Chin is an internationally acclaimed artist featured in Season One of Art:21 by bringing Mel Chin to Wichita. Chin is an internationally acclaimed artist featured in Season One of Art:21 by bringing Mel Chin to Wichita. Chin is an internationally acclaimed artist...