



MEDIA CONTACT
Taras W. Matla
301.405.1474
tmatla@umd.edu

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**THE ART GALLERY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND PRESENTS
WILL REED: FIVE YEARS OF BIG DRAWINGS**

Monumental Drawings Ponder Life, Environment, and the Human Condition

COLLEGE PARK, Md.—From September 4-October 18, 2013*, The Art Gallery at the University of Maryland (UMD) presents an exhibition of monumental charcoal drawings by artist Will Reed. The works examine intersections, links and gaps found in various environmental spaces occupied by human beings and everyday objects.

Since the Renaissance, art historians and theorists have considered drawing to be the foundation of all the visual arts. Through his remarkable ability to render large-scale drawings, Will Reed creates profound and striking images of contemporary life that, both, humanize our personal individualistic experiences and instill a sense of environmental interrogation.

“Creating large, monumental drawings has a twofold dynamic for me. First, it links me to some of my most important [artistic] influences—Piero della Francesca, Giotto, Courbet, Goya, as well as the first artists, the cave painters—all of whom made drawings on a large scale or made drawings as preparations for important works,” according to Reed. “The second part,” he adds, “is that by making such ambitious drawings it makes a statement that drawing can stand up to any other artistic medium—painting, sculpture, installation, performance, film, etc. It can be just as powerful and meaningful, if not more meaningful, as the aforementioned”

Will Reed’s works invite the viewer into the picture plane, but at the same time allow enough space for meaningful contemplation and individual reflection. Much of Reed’s work focuses on the relationship between man, animal, and nature within exterior and interior spaces. In particular, his drawings treat non-human[being] species as a stronger life force and do not shy away from presenting such notions within his work. His drawings reflect the past and present, and delve deep into the representing the imagination of the human mind.

The current ensemble of Will Reed’s drawings, one of which comes from The Art Gallery’s permanent collection, is a significant moment for art discourse, as it continues to highlight the important role stand-alone drawing occupies within the genre of contemporary art making.

*The exhibition *Honorificabilitudinitatibus* will be on view concurrently at The Art Gallery.

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EXHIBITION SUPPORT

Will Reed: Five Years of Big Drawings is organized by John Shipman, Director, The Art Gallery. Financial contributions provided by the Maryland State Arts Council with direct support from by the National Endowment for the Art. Additional financial support from the University of Maryland provided by College of Arts and Humanities, The Graduate School, and Office of Student Financial Aid/Federal Work-Study Program (FWS). The gallery is also supported in part by other national, state, and local arts agencies, foundations, corporations, and private donors. The Art Gallery thanks FWS student Chidiebube Nwaneri for her significant research and writing contributions to this news release.

THE ART GALLERY

Founded in 1955, The Art Gallery is University of Maryland's premier space for exhibiting cutting-edge visual and media arts. Through the display of significant and challenging contemporary art—with an emphasis on emerging and mid-career artists—The Art Gallery commits itself to the further cultivation of new, innovative, and education-based scholarship. In order to share its works with a broad public, The Art Gallery also organizes thematic and collection-based exhibitions that travel to museums nationwide.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Art Gallery is located at University of Maryland, 1202 Art-Sociology Building, College Park, Maryland. Gallery hours: Tuesday through Friday, 11:00am to 4:00pm; Saturday, 1:00pm-4:00pm. The gallery is closed Sunday, Monday, major holidays and on days that home football games are held at Capital One Field at Byrd Stadium. Admission is free and open to the public. For general information, please call 301.405.2763 or visit the website at www.artgallery.umd.edu.