6-14-1996

Kate Kretz

The Art Museum at Florida International University Frost Art Museum

The Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/frostcatalogs

Recommended Citation


This work is brought to you for free and open access by the Frost Art Museum at FIU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Frost Art Museum Catalogs by an authorized administrator of FIU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact dcc@fiu.edu.
June 14 - August 10, 1996

Curated by Dahlia Morgan, Director

Essay by Nora M. Heimann, Ph.D.

The Art Museum
AT FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
MIAMI, FLORIDA
University Park, PC 110
S.W. 107th Ave. & 8th Street
Miami, FL 33199
(305) 348-2890 • Fax (305) 348-2762
Director's Statement

The Art Museum at Florida International University is pleased to present the work of Kate Kretz. She joined FIU's Visual Arts Department as Assistant Professor in 1995. Ms. Kretz uses the mysterious, high contrast light of nighttime to stage figurative imagery in ambiguous situations. The seductive surface and familiar subject matter of her work entice the viewer to examine the discrepancy between reality and illusion.

I wish to thank Nora M. Heimann, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, in the Visual Arts Department at FIU, for her insightful essay. The Museum's programs are supported in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, the Division of Cultural Affairs through the Florida Arts Council; the Metropolitan Dade County Cultural Affairs Council and the Metropolitan Dade County Board of County Commissioners; the Cowies Charitable Trust; Citibank, Florida; the James Deering Danielson Foundation; the Blank Family Foundation; and the Friends of The Art Museum.

Dahilia Morgan
Director

Acknowledgments

Florida International University

Modesto A. Maidique
President

James A. Mau
Provost and Vice President, Academic Affairs

Cynthia W. Curry
Vice President, Business and Finance

Richard J. Correnti
Vice President, Student Affairs

Paul D. Gallagher
Vice President, University Advancement and University Budget

Mary L. Pankowski
Vice President, North Campus and University Outreach

Arthur W. Henriett
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

Terry Witheill
Director, Office of Publications

The Staff of The Art Museum

Dahilia Morgan
Director

Regina C. Bailey
Assistant Director

Mercy Advocat
Office Manager, Membership

Chris Ingalls
Museum Educator

Ivan F. Reyes
Program Assistant

Martin Amado
Museum Assistant

John Boyett
Museum Assistant

Kay Boyett
Dade County Public Schools, Museum Educator

Kate Kretz

Powerfully resonant and evocatively complex, Kretz's paintings are crafted—one might almost say wrought—with an exquisite detail that draws the viewer in, unfolding before the viewer's gaze only slowly, and only with an investment of time and effort. For Kretz, this vivid and sensual density of detail is deliberately excessive, as she herself describes:

I want to make riveting images that cannot be dismissed, executed in such a way that they demand to be examined further...I am trying to convey that moment when you come upon something for the first time, and it is so beautiful, strange or moving, that it makes you hold your breath; that moment is so out of the ordinary and magical that you want it to last as long as it possibly can. And if you don't breathe, it's almost like stopping time, you are suspended in that moment.

In Kretz's work, the most riveting and extraordinary images of life are set at night. Night, for Kretz, is a time of heightened awareness, and strange, almost magical transformations. In Kretz's Nocturnal Theater series, a suite of three street scenes painted between 1992 and 1994, for example, the shadowy and quiet empty spaces of the suburbs at night become eerily ripe for some fertile action—a clandestine nocturnal escape, perhaps—watched in Nocturnal Theater II and III by the burning eye of an insomnia's window glowing in the darkness. Seductively ruddy with the lyricism of a Chopin prelude, the night air in these landscapes seems to beckon the restless wanderings of the somnambulist or the sleepless. It was a lure the artist herself succumbed to ruminating as a girl growing up in upstate New York. "Around the age of thirteen," Kretz recently recalled, the nocturnal landscape began to fascinate me. Spring through autumn nights in particular would not let me sleep, for fear of missing some imminent magical happening. Sticking my head out of the bedroom window and plunging into the night as I would peer with wonder at the shapes and shadows, while waiting for our large household to settle. I crept down the stairs and out the door to wander and look—at
Director's Statement

The Art Museum at Florida International University is pleased to present the work of Kate Kretz. She joined FIA's Visual Arts Department as Assistant Professor in 1994. Ms. Kretz, like her mysterious, high-contrast light to delineate imaginary settings in ambiguous settings. The seductive nature and familiar aesthetic of her work works well with the museum's general public image. Ms. Kretz's work is on display from February 1995 to April 1995. She would like to thank her students, and her colleagues, for their support and encouragement.

Kate Kretz

Powerful moments and entirely complex, Kate Kretz's paintings are careful, might almost seem strange with an explosive edge that does not seem...
Exhibition Checklist

1. I Let Him, But I Didn’t Really Like It..., 1994
   Acrylic and oil on linen
   72" x 72"
   On loan from the artist

2. Taking Me Away From All of This, 1994
   Acrylic and oil on canvas
   64" x 60"
   On loan from the artist

3. 3:15, 1994
   Acrylic and oil on linen
   41" x 65"
   On loan from the artist

4. Ten Ways to Win Him Without Losing Yourself, p. 93, 1995
   Acrylic and oil on masonite
   16" x 20"
   On loan from the artist

5. Nocturnal Theater III, 1994
   Acrylic and oil on linen
   48" x 60"
   On loan from Carol and Nicki Stavropoulos, Athens, GA

6. Nocturnal Theater I, 1992
   Acrylic and oil on canvas
   30" x 20"
   On loan from the artist

7. Kim Hiding, 1994
   Acrylic and oil on linen
   38 1/2" x 54"
   On loan from Carol and Nicki Stavropoulos, Athens, GA

8. How to Tell If He Is Lying to You, p. 47, 1996
   Acrylic and oil on masonite
   24" x 18"
   On loan from the artist

9. Yvonne, 1994
   Silverpoint on gessoed paper
   22" x 32"
   On loan from the artist

10. He Gave Me All of His Love, But Later It Ran Down My Leg, 1995
    Acrylic and oil on linen
    40" x 33"
    On loan from the artist

11. How To Act Not React When He Makes You Crazy, p. 52, 1996
    Oil on canvas
    36" x 62"
    On loan from the artist

12. How Not to Be A Victim of Your Own Expectations, p. 73, 1996
    Oil on canvas
    73" x 36"
    On loan from the artist

13. You Make Me Act Like The People I Hate, 1996
    Mixed media
    33" x 27"
    On loan from the artist

14. Where I Really Was Last Night, 1989
    Acrylic and oil on paper
    22" x 29"
    On loan from the artist

15. Arranging Her Feet Exactly That Way, No One Could See The Hole In Her Shoe, 1993
    Acrylic and oil on paper
    31" x 48"
    On loan from the artist

Biography

EDUCATION:
1994 M.F.A., The University of Georgia at Athens, Athens, GA
1987 B.F.A., Binghamton University, Binghamton, NY
1982 Certificat, Cours de la Civilization Francaise, Sorbonne, Paris, France

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:
1995-present Assistant Professor, Florida International University, Miami, FL
1994-95 Instructor, University of Georgia, Athens, GA
1993-94 Faculty of Record, University of Georgia, Athens, GA
1991-92 Teaching Assistant, University of Georgia, Athens, GA
1990-91 Media Specialist, Gaylord Brothers, Syracuse, NY
1988-90 Art Director, Rosanne Sall Advertising, Binghamton, NY
1987-88 Instructor, Binghamton University, Binghamton, NY

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS:
1996 Callenwolde Fine Arts Center, Atlanta, GA
1995 University of Georgia, Athens, GA
1994 University of Georgia, Athens, GA
1992 The Globe, Athens, GA
1992 University of Georgia, Athens, GA
1991 Cazenovia College, Cazenovia, NY
1991 Everson Museum, Syracuse, NY
1991 Lilac House, Syracuse, NY
1987 Binghamton University, Binghamton, NY

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS:
1994 Mapping the Self: Models of Identity in a Postmodernizing State, Tellair Museum, Savannah, GA
Brenau University National Invitational Exhibition, Brenau University, Gainesville, GA
Red Clay Survey: Fourth Biennial Exhibition of Contemporary Southern Art, Huntsville Museum, Huntsville, AL
Vividly Told: Contemporary Southern Narrative Painting, Morris Museum of Art, Augusta, GA
Gibbes Museum of Art, Charleston, SC
Diverse Union, Georgia Museum of Art, Athens, GA
1992 San Diego Art Institute National Juried Exhibition, San Diego Art Institute, San Diego, CA

GRANTS AND AWARDS:
1994 Hammer Center Fellowship and Residency, Raybun Gap, GA
1993 Morris Corporation Public Art Fund Purchase, Augusta, GA
1992 Morris Corporation Public Art Fund Purchase, Augusta, GA
1987 Binghamton University Foundation Grant for Excellence in the Fine Arts, Binghamton, NY