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Jane Fortune Outstanding Women Visiting Artist Lecture

Polly Apfelbaum to speak at Herron School of Art and Design Dec. 1 in conjunction with opening of Undergraduate Student Exhibition


“I don’t want to define feminist art ... there are a lot of different feminisms,” declares Polly Apfelbaum in a 2008 video shot by the Brooklyn Museum (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=syaX9U78_zw).

Although, paradoxically, when you are Polly Apfelbaum, your very utterance adds to the definition.

Apfelbaum’s work has been showing consistently in New York and abroad since her first one-person show in 1986. Born in 1955, she was considered mid-career in 2003 when the Institute for Contemporary Art in Philadelphia surveyed her work.

“One of the major elements of interest in Apfelbaum’s work is that it seems to connect to various and quite different contemporary art movements simultaneously,” says Patrick Kinsman, a lecturer in art history at Herron. “We see pop culture, Abstract Expressionism, post-minimal organic forms and feminist craftwork, all operating at
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Once, and usually in a spirit of play rather than irony."

Collections of the Museum of Modern Art and the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, and the Los Angeles County and Dallas museums of art, among many others, include her work. She has won grants and awards including Guggenheim, Diebenkorn and Mitchell fellowships, an Academy Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and a Pollack-Krasner Foundation grant.

The breadth and depth of her experience makes her presence a real gift to art students and aficionados alike. Her presentation begins at 5:30 p.m. in the Basile Auditorium of Eskenazi Hall.

Apfelbaum’s appearance is in conjunction with the opening of Herron’s Undergraduate Student Exhibition in the Eleanor Prest Reese and Robert B. Berkshire galleries. The opening reception is from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

It is the generosity of Jane Fortune—author, cultural editor, art historian, art collector and philanthropist—that brings Apfelbaum to Herron. As her 2009 book, *Women: Forgotten Artists in Florence*, illustrates, one of Fortune’s passions is elevating women artists. "I want to make an impact on the community that surrounds me and help make the arts accessible to our residents. For me, supporting Herron makes sense. Why would you not want to support excellence?" she says. This is the fourth year for the Jane Fortune Outstanding Women Visiting Artist Lecture.

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Parking Information

Guests of Herron School of Art and Design should park in the Sports Complex Garage, just west of Herron. Park in the visitor side of the garage and bring your garage ticket to the Herron Galleries for parking validation, courtesy of The Great Frame Up. Parking in the surface lot requires an IUPUI parking permit.