

Tale Spinning

Enrique Chagoya Lesley Dill Brad Kahlhamer Shirin Neshat Nicky Nodjoumi Alison Saar

Curated by Dan Mills

September 23 – December 17, 2011

Upper Level Gallery

The exhibition *Tale Spinning* presents the work of a select group of prominent artists who create art with a strong narrative component. The exhibition includes a variety of media, including drawing (Chagoya and Kahlhamer), painting (Chagoya, Kahlhamer, and Nodjoumi), sculpture (Dill and Saar) and video (Neshat). The artists employ different aesthetic, conceptual, and narrative strategies. Consequently, their imagery and stories take many forms, and the works of art both reveal and conceal tales in various ways and with differing intentions. Each of the artists incorporates aspects of personal stories, cultural stories, and history into their work, masterfully spinning powerful, mysterious, and provocative tales.

Curricular Connections: There are many for this exhibition. (Depts.) African American Studies; Anthropology; Art and Visual Culture; English; Politics; Women and Gender Studies; (GECs) Beauty and Desire; Colonialism; Color: Sight and Perception; Conflict and Threat: War and Disease; Culture and Meaning; Diasporas; Film and Media Studies; Filmmaking in Cultural Context; Globalization; Identity, Race and Ethnicity; Latin American Studies; Material Culture; Popular Culture; Post Colonial Issues in French and Spanish; Producing Culture; Racisms; and courses that include the study of Native American culture and history; Iran, the Middle East, and metaphor, may find the exhibition a useful resource.

(representative image of a work by each artist, not necessarily in the exhibition)



(L) Enrique Chagoya, *Thinking of Ensor and My Cat Diego*, 2009, acrylic and water based oils on canvas, 60 x 80 inches

(R) Lesley Dill: *Word Queen of Laughter*, 2007, foil, organza, wire, paint, steel



Kahlhamer, *East of Mesa East, A 55 Plus Community*, 2002. ink & watercolor on paper. 44-1/2 x 92 inches



Neshat, *The Last Word*, video, 2003, video (still)



Nicky Nodjoui, *Invitation to Change Your Metaphor*, 2009, oil on canvas, 72 x 100 inches



Saar, *Bareroot*, 2007, wood, bronze ceiling tin, tar, 17 x 81 x 48 inches