

THE WESTERN GALLERY

Western Washington University

October 9-December 2, 2000

John Buck. Recent Sculpture and Woodblock Prints

Widely known for his mixed media works, Buck has recently used the human figure as a template within which to explore a complex language of familiar and unfamiliar cultural symbols. This exhibition, organized by Lewis and Clark College Gallery of Portland, brings together 37 works which illustrate Buck's almost visceral affinity for his medium of wood and his ability to translate his own experiences into a vocabulary of visual objects. Hybrid symbols relate parts of different stories and together weave new narratives of public concerns and private dreams. Although based in Montana, Buck has shown his work in numerous solo and group exhibitions across the United States since the mid seventies. His work is included in major museums and corporate collections, from The Museum of Modern Art in New York to the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. *Closed Veteran's Day weekend, November 10-12; Thanksgiving holidays, from noon Nov. 22 -Nov. 26th.*



January 19-March 10, 2001

Pictures, Patents, Monkeys, and More... On Collecting

In the realm of collecting, everything is fair game from Old Master drawings to comic books. This exhibition offers a representative selection of objects from three different kinds of collections: contemporary fine art, popular culture, and public record. From the Robert J. Shiffler Foundation, a nationally known collection of contemporary art in Ohio, is a selection of approximately 25 mixed media works by such noteworthy artists as Janine Antoni, Karen Finley, Felix Gonzalez-Torres, Alan Rath, Lorna Simpson and Rirkrit Tiravanija. From a private collection in New York comes 100 examples of sock monkeys, a hand-crafted toy whose golden age was the 1950s. The third example of collecting originates in the archives of the United States Patent Office, to which every future inventor submitted a miniature, usually extraordinary, model of the great idea. The show raises provocative questions such as: why do individuals and institutions accumulate objects; what distinguishes an object as art; how does the creation and collecting of contemporary art differ in value, interest and purpose from other pursuits. Organized by Independent Curators International in New York, the exhibition at Western Gallery is made possible by the Homer Bernard Mathes Exhibition Fund. *Closed Martin Luther King holiday weekend, January 13-15th; President's Day weekend, February 17-19th.*

April 2 – May 5, 2001

Janet Biggs: *Flight*

Janet Biggs brings to the Western Gallery an installation which was first created for Wesleyan University's Silkha Gallery (Middletown, CT). In a large-scale multi-channel video presentation accompanied with sound, Biggs explores issues of modernity, gender and desire through images of a space astronaut, horses and swimmers. Past viewers will remember this New York based artist's work in *Embedded Metaphor*, one of numerous group exhibitions in which she has starred since the early eighties.

May 14-June 16, 2001

Inuit Art

This two-part exhibition focuses on one of Canada's most important native art traditions. One aspect features the work of Jesse Oonark, a woman artist from Baker Lake, Nunavut, Canada whose drawings and textile art were translated into the print medium. These prints are placed in context with an important private collection containing prints, tapestries, and carvings by other Inuit artists. Oonark's prints from 1970-1985 reflect her personal journey, the psychological soul travel that allowed her to intellectualize and explore cross cultural and social relationships inherent in contemporary Inuit life. Oonark, similar to the other artists represented in various mediums, created a rich stylistic vocabulary that reflects the fundamental aspects of Inuit culture and that celebrates its many facets, including social and cultural upheaval. The exhibition is a collaborative effort between several universities, Canadian consulates, private collections and corporations.

**Western Gallery now open until 8pm on
Wednesdays. Gallery Hours: Monday – Friday, 10am-
4pm, except Wednesdays 10am-8pm; Saturdays, Noon to
4pm. Always free to the public. For general information,
and events on Wednesdays, call 650-3900.**