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CHESTER ARNOLD'S INTRICATE ALLEGORIES AT WESTERN GALLERY APRIL 2-JUNE 8
Selections from Earlier "Pressure Points" Exhibit Continue in South Gallery

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BELLINGHAM – “Urban Invasion,” works by San Francisco painter Chester Arnold that depict a contemporary world on the brink of disaster, are on view at Western Gallery Tuesday, April 2 through Saturday, June 8. Located on the Western Washington University campus, the gallery is free and the community is welcome.

Sometimes compared in technique and spirit to 15th century Flemish artist Hieronymus Bosch, Arnold is a master of intricate detail whose works combine darkness and humor. Paintings in the exhibit, dating from 1992, are in three thematic series: Movements, Excavations and Accumulation.

They include “dramatic images of anonymous exiled masses...dwarfed under threatening skies, striated roadways cruelly carving the rugged countryside, and the discarded material possessions of civilization stockpiled in one enormous heap,” notes Karen Kienzle, assistant curator of the San Jose Museum of Art in the exhibit catalogue.

“A key artistic device in Arnold’s landscapes,” Kienzle adds, “is point of view which sometimes places the viewer in the midst of the composition and, at other times, sets him at great heights with a bird’s eye view, suggesting a spiritual power at work. Through imposing tangled tree limbs, turbulent ocean waves and jagged mountain ranges, man’s presence is revealed, but his significance is diminished.”

Born in California in 1952, Arnold studied with private teachers in Munich during his high school years and received a master of fine arts degree from the San Francisco Art Institute in 1987. He has exhibited throughout the United States, in Europe and in Latin America. Now living in Sonoma, Calif., he has taught at the College of Marin since 1988.

The Arnold exhibit was organized by the Susan Cummins Gallery of Mill Valley, Calif.

Also on view in the south wing of Western Gallery are selected items from “Pressure Points,” prints and other “multiple” works by 23 noted contemporary artists from the collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and the Jordan & Mina Schnitzer Foundation (Portland, Ore.). During April, selections emphasize pop culture and social comment. Starting May 6, a new configuration emphasizes portraits and text.

Gallery hours are Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Saturday, noon to 4 p.m. **PLEASE NOTE: The gallery closes May 25-27 (Memorial Day) and for the season June 8.** For additional information, call (360) 650-3900 (TTY: 1-800-833-6388).

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