



ALBANY MUSEUM OF ART

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Contact: Jim Hendricks
Director of Marketing & Public Relations
(229) 439-8400
jim.hendricks@albanymuseum.com

FIGURE DRAWING CLASS SET FOR SEPT 11 AT ALBANY MUSEUM OF ART

Figure Forward Artists Will Talk About Their Work With AMA Guests on Sept 12

[For Release Aug 30, 2019 – Albany, GA] — Albany area residents will have an opportunity on **Wednesday, Sept 11, 2019** to take a drawing class from artist William Downs, whose work is currently showing in the *Figure Forward* exhibition at the Albany Museum of Art.

Downs also will join with fellow *Figure Forward* artists Jill Frank and Jaime Bull on **Thursday, Sept 12, 2019** as they discuss their work with museum guests. The panel discussion titled *Body Image: A Conversation with Contemporary Artists* will be moderated by Annie Vanoteghem, director of education and public programming at the AMA.

“Participating in a figure drawing workshop taught by William Downs is a special opportunity,” Vanoteghem said. “He has extensive experience drawing the figure from life, and he creates a dreamlike, timeless quality in his work from combining that with historical references.”

Downs earned his MFA from the Mount Royal School of Art at Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore, Md., and his BFA in painting and printmaking from Atlanta College of Art. He is a lecturer in drawing and painting at Georgia State University in Atlanta.

The Sept 11 workshop, which is aimed at adults, will be **5:30-8 pm**. The cost is \$50 for AMA members and \$65 for non-members. Space is limited for the class, so early registration is suggested. To sign up, contact Vanoteghem at 229.439.8400.

“The workshop is for participants of all skill levels,” Vanoteghem said. “We’re going to conduct it in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere so everyone will be comfortable. You’re materials will be provided, so all you’ll need to do is show up, learn and enjoy the evening.”

There also will be a chance to meet Downs the next evening. He, Bull and Frank will discuss their work with guests at 6 pm on Sept 12 at the AMA. *Body Image: A Conversation with Contemporary Artists* is free and open to the public.

“Through William Downs’ drawing, Jaime Bull’s sculpture and Jill Frank’s photography, visitors to the *Figure Forward* exhibition gain a valuable new perspective on the female figure,” Vanoteghem said. “We are happy that we could get all three here to talk with museum guests about how their work addresses the movement of the body, identity, human relationships and even the concept of beauty.”

Frank’s photography explores relationships between individuals and their social groups, and between subject and camera. Her work often operates as portraiture, but the focus of the portrait is prone to extend beyond the body to its immediate context. The subject is often shown caught up in a moment of negotiation between internal self-awareness and external presentation.

Bull’s artworks approach bodies—specifically women’s bodies—with affectionate humor and a celebratory, feminist perspective. In her sculpture, she utilizes materials such as bright spandex, second-hand, one-piece bathing suits, and workout attire—often stuffed with plastic shopping bags—to create lumpy, curvaceous, slouching figures. There is a poignance and pathos present beneath the absurdity and humor of her work

Both Down’s figure drawing workshop and *Body Image: A Conversation with Contemporary Artists* take place during *National Arts in Education Week*, which starts Monday, Sept 9.

CURRENT AMA EXHIBITIONS

- *Figure Forward*, works by Jill Frank, Jaime Bull and William Downs, is in the Haley Gallery through Oct 12, 2019.
- *Educators as Artists: Juried College Faculty Exhibition* is in the East Gallery through Oct 12, 2019.
- *Fragments of a Violent World*, nano photography by Michael Oliveri, is in the West Gallery through Oct 12, 2019.

COMING UP SOON

- AMA ChalkFest: Pop Art & Pop Tops, the Albany Museum of Art’s 2nd annual chalk art and craft beer festival, is 10 am-6 pm Oct 5, 2019 on the 100 block of Pine Avenue in downtown Albany.

ABOUT THE ALBANY MUSEUM OF ART

The Albany Museum of Art, located in Albany, Georgia, adjacent to Albany State University West Campus just off Gillionville Road is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. The Albany Museum of Art is open 10 am through 5 pm Tuesdays through Fridays and noon until 5 pm on Saturdays. Admission is free.

For more information about the AMA please visit our website, www.albanymuseum.com or call 229.439.8400. Be sure to follow the @AlbanyArtMuseum on Twitter, AlbanyMuseum on Instagram and AlbanyMuseumOfArt on Facebook.

For information about *AMA ChalkFest*, visit www.amachalkfest.com or call 229.439.8400. Be sure to follow @amachalkfest on Twitter and Instagram, and AMACHalkFest on Facebook.

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