



THE ART GALLERY

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

MEDIA CONTACT

Taras W. Matla

301.405.1474

tmatla@umd.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: August 21, 2013

THE ART GALLERY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND PRESENTS

HONORIFICABILITUDINITATIBUS

(ho - no - ri - fi - ca - bi - li - tu - di - ni - ta - ti - bu - s)

An installation by Bill Dunlap told through paint, poetry and prose

COLLEGE PARK, Md.—From September 4-October 18, 2013*, The Art Gallery at the University of Maryland (UMD) presents *Honorificabilitudinitatibus*, an exhibition of paintings by Bill Dunlap. This is Dunlap's first solo exhibition at The Art Gallery.

The genesis of the title, *Honorificabilitudinitatibus*, comes from one of William Shakespeare's earliest comedies, *Love's Labour's Lost*. The title, according to Dunlap, seems to imply "being in a position worthy of receiving honors." The artist—who received his BA in English from UMD in 1989 and is profoundly influenced by the work of Shakespeare—insists that the exhibition should not be interpreted as a direct homage to the Elizabethan-era playwright per se, but, rather, a manipulation of various literary references and visual flourishes that yield a diluted form of humor.

At first glance, much of the work in this exhibition appears to be dark, black, and sinister in nature. A painting of a grotesque melting face, inspired by a Melville novella, replaces the formal descriptive function of a meticulously fashioned sentence. In contrast, other works in the exhibition are reduced to giant, brightly colored geometric shapes that are quilt-like in composition—another means of conveying, albeit abstractly, expression and storytelling.

A key work on view—a hybrid painting-sculpture titled, "I'll Talk to Anyone About Shakespeare"—allows the viewer to circumnavigate the object. "From the back it [the painting] recedes like a vanishing point, while from the front, it suggests the dwindling of life energy down to an eternal invisible spot," says Dunlap. The viewer interacts with the object as if she/he were an actor improvising or adlibbing onstage. This, according to Dunlap, makes it very Shakespearean to him and thus makes it fitting for the show. The paintings also follow a storied artistic custom of fusing text with image, all the while presenting the viewer with a kind of anti-canonical satire and anti-hierarchical lyricism, which tend to be reoccurring elements in the artist's oeuvre.

A few years ago, The Art Gallery commissioned Bill Dunlap, as part of its *Poetry and Art in Rural Maryland* project in 2010, to travel throughout the state of Maryland and transform outlying barns into works of art by painting murals and poems onto them. In this recent iteration, visitors to the gallery will be able to further examine Dunlap's work as it relates to the relationship between artist and author, illustration and the written (or spoken) word.

*The exhibition *Will Reed: Five Years of Big Drawings* will be on view concurrently at The Art Gallery.

#

EXHIBITION SUPPORT

Honorificabilitudinitatibus and its accompanying publication are organized by John Shipman, Director, The Art Gallery; catalogue essay by Matthew Kirkpatrick, Assistant Professor, Department of English, North Central College in Naperville, IL. Financial contributions provided by the Maryland State Arts Council with direct support from the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional financial support from the University of Maryland provided by College of Arts and Humanities, The Graduate School, and Office of Student Financial Aid/Federal Work-Study Program (FWS). The gallery is also supported in part by other national, state, and local arts agencies, foundations, corporations, and private donors. The Art Gallery thanks FWS student Briana Washington for her significant research and writing contributions to this news release.

THE ART GALLERY

Founded in 1955, The Art Gallery is University of Maryland's premier space for exhibiting cutting-edge visual and media arts. Through the display of significant and challenging contemporary art—with an emphasis on emerging and mid-career artists—The Art Gallery commits itself to the further cultivation of new, innovative, and education-based scholarship. In order to share its works with a broad public, The Art Gallery also organizes thematic and collection-based exhibitions that travel to museums nationwide.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Art Gallery is located at University of Maryland, 1202 Art-Sociology Building, College Park, Maryland. Gallery hours: Tuesday through Friday, 11:00am to 4:00pm; Saturday, 1:00pm-4:00pm. The gallery is closed Sunday, Monday, major holidays and on days that home football games are held at Capital One Field at Byrd Stadium. Admission is free and open to the public. For general information, please call 301.405.2763 or visit the website at www.artgallery.umd.edu.