AGNOLIA Newsletter No.3, Spring 04

Tamarind Institute Printmaking Forum

In December of 2003, the Tamarind Institute held a forum at Magnolia Editions on the impact of digital technology on the field of printmaking. The forum was part of Robert Conway's vision for an interdisciplinary issue of The Tamarind Papers, a 30-year-old journal dedicated to the history, technique and ethics of printmaking. The distinguished speakers represented five major American print studios: Marge Devon of Tamarind Institute; Donald Farnsworth of Magnolia Editions; Toby Michel of Angeles Press: Pam Paulson of Paulson Press and David Salgado of Trillium Press. Among the divers topics addressed were the many forms and applications of digital technology, the supplementation of older techniques with digital techniques, originality and intent as standards by which to judge digital artworks, and the archival quality of digital printmaking. Whether the various studios practiced digital printmaking or not, all members of the panel agreed digital technology should be considered a new tool among the many already available to the artist. Issue #18, scheduled to be published in May, will also be published in The Tamarind Papers Online http://tamarind.unm.edu/ttp online.html, where downloadable movies of the panel discussion will be available.

Magnolia Tapestry Project NY opens

401 Washington Street, #6B in Tribeca. By appointment only. 212-941-1919 bruce@artstacks.com

Announcing Magnolia Tapestry Project's new exhibition space in New York City. Tapestries will be presented salon-style in the Tribeca space Magnolia Tapestry Project is sharing with ArtStacks, the art management software company. Bruce Velick, the mastermind behind ArtStacks, is acting as curator and consultant for the Magnolia Tapestry Project on the east coast. The premier show, opening in March, will include tapestries by William Wiley, Nancy Spero, Bruce Conner, Rupert Garcia, Squeak Carnwath Katherine Westerhout, and Donald and Era Farnsworth. With artists on the east and west coasts, the Magnolia Tapestry Project is gaining momentum. Upcoming projects include tapestries by Chuck Close, Mel Ramos, Darren Waterston, and Robert Kushner.

A New Look on the World Wide Web

In response to the outstanding number of visitors at the Magnolia Editions web site, the site has been redesigned by Marisha Farnsworth and now graces the internet in a new, elegant and accessible form. Visit www.magnoliaeditions.com to view new editions and a catalogue of prints that spans the last two decades.

William Wiley: LifeWork Award and Exhibit

Feb 6 - March 6. Closing reception March 5th, 5:30 - 7:30. Falkirk Cultural Center, 1408 Mission at "E" Street, San Rafael, California, 415-485-3328

The Marin Arts Council has chosen William Wiley as the recipient of the biennial LifeWork Award and Exhibit. Wiley's show, "More Than Meats, the I", will feature recent paintings, watercolors, constructions and three tapestries published by the Magnolia Tapestry Project.

Magnolia Editions congratulates William Wiley, a great talent, as well as a hard-working, generous and well-deserving artist.

Westerhout Opening

Katherine Westerhout's tapestry Richmond III, 2003, was unveiled in the lobby of the present headquarters of the Mayor and City Manager of Richmond, near the old Ford Assembly Plant in Richmond. The tapestry depicts the plant flooded and rusted prior to its current restoration. During the opening Westerhout spoke about her work and Donald Farnsworth gave a talk on the process of tapestry making at the Magnolia Tapestry Project.

Michelle Seville of the Richmond Arts and Culture Commission observed. "To me, one of the best testimonials to the importance of public art comes from non-artists -- people who live and work in places where they have experienced public art, and speak about the impact it has on them," and, indeed, Richmond III provoked an encouraging response. One City of Richmond employee remarked: "Beautiful art like this needs to be here. Every time I come in to greet a visitor I find them standing in front of the tapestry, reading about how it was made, and saying how wonderful it is."