



March 24, 2010

EXHIBITION FACT SHEET



Title: *Albert Paley in the 21st Century*

When: May 2–June 27, 2010

Description: Rochester sculptor Albert Paley has earned an international reputation for his ability to manipulate cold, hard metal into organic, seemingly impossible forms. Over a career spanning more than three decades, he has completed more than 60 monumental commissions for sites from Washington DC to Houston to Los Angeles. This exhibition organized by the Memorial Art Gallery brings together 37 sculptures and models and 16 drawings from 2000 to 2010, as well as a video of the artist at work.

Programs & events: These include a “Party with Paley” benefit preview (April 30), exhibition opening party (May 1), lecture by the artist (May 2), educators’ inservice (May 12) and family day (June 13). *For details, see attached release.*



Sponsors: This exhibition is made possible by Presenting Sponsors Bank of America and The Mr. and Mrs. Raymond J. Horowitz Foundation for the Arts, Inc. Additional underwriting is provided by the Gallery Council of the Memorial Art Gallery, the Gouvernet Arts Fund of Rochester Area Community Foundation, the Thomas and Marion Hawks Memorial Fund, Nancy G. Curme and Nancy Turner. Support is also provided by Deanne Molinari, Bob and Joanne Gianniny, the Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation and Mann’s Jewelers. “Party with Paley” is sponsored by Klein Steel Service Inc. The exhibition opening party is sponsored by the Democrat and Chronicle.



Hours: Open Wednesday–Sunday 11 am to 5 pm and until 9 pm on Thursdays. Closed Monday and Tuesday.

Admission: \$10; college students with ID and senior citizens, \$6; children 6–18, \$5. Always free to members, University of Rochester students, and children 5 and under. Half-price admission Thursdays from 5–9 pm is made possible by ExxonMobil Chemical Company and Monroe County.



Information: Patti Giordano 585.276.8932 / pgiordano@mag.rochester.edu
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**INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN METAL SCULPTOR IS FOCUS
OF NEW MEMORIAL ART GALLERY EXHIBITION**
Recent Work by Albert Paley Goes on View May 2



ROCHESTER, NY — Rochester sculptor Albert Paley has earned an international reputation for his ability to manipulate cold, hard metal into organic, seemingly impossible forms. Over a career spanning more than three decades, he has completed more than 60 monumental commissions for sites from Washington DC to Houston to Los Angeles. Now he is the subject of *Albert Paley in the 21st Century*, an exhibition that brings together 37 sculptures and models and 16 drawings produced between 2000 and 2010.

Highlights include a 15-foot-long model of the gates Paley designed for the St. Louis Zoo, populated by a steel rhino, giraffe, egrets, fish and a host of other animals; the bright red, 12-foot-tall model for a much larger outdoor sculpture in Charleston, West Virginia; and the magnificent design study for a gate at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC. Visitors will have the opportunity to watch a video on the making of RIT's immense *Sentinel* sculpture and to explore through photographic documentation the aesthetic, engineering and logistical challenges of working on a very large scale.

The Gallery is the only venue for the show, which remains on view through June 27.

Albert Paley in the 21st Century was organized by the Memorial Art Gallery. It is made possible by Presenting Sponsors Bank of America and The Mr. and Mrs. Raymond J. Horowitz Foundation for the Arts, Inc. Additional underwriting is provided by the Gallery Council of the Memorial Art Gallery, the Gouvernet Arts Fund of Rochester Area Community Foundation, the Thomas and Marion Hawks Memorial Fund, Nancy G. Curme and Nancy Turner. Support is also provided by Deanne Molinari, Bob and Joanne Gianniny, the Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation and Mann's Jewelers. "Party with Paley" is sponsored by Klein Steel Service Inc. The exhibition opening party is sponsored by the Democrat and Chronicle.

Programs and events

Sunday, May 2 at 3 pm, Albert Paley will give an illustrated lecture in the Memorial Art Gallery auditorium. His lecture is included in Gallery admission. Other events include a "Party with Paley" benefit preview (April 30), exhibition opening party (May 1); educators' inservice (May 12); and family day (June 13). *For details, see attached release.*

About the artist

"Albert Paley is a Romantic," writes exhibition curator Marie Via, "and by this I mean that nature and our relationship with it dominates his aesthetic. He is endlessly fascinated by plant life, sometimes interpreting its structures quite literally, and then again abstracting it to a suggestion of itself. At the intellectual core of his work is the belief that natural forms have the power to humanize the minimalist architecture of factories, apartment complexes and arts centers.... He understands that people who try to work, live, shop and relax behind brutal facades can find some sort of balance by walking through or passing by artworks that celebrate our connection with nature."

ABOVE: The artist at Klein Steel, Inc. in Rochester. The company commissioned his 2006 sculpture *Threshold*, shown in the background. *Photo by Bruce Miller.*

more...

A graduate of Tyler School of Art in Philadelphia, where he received his BFA and MFA, Paley began his career as a goldsmith, the maker of jewelry that might be described as futuristically Art Nouveau. A decade later, working in forged and fabricated steel, he came to national prominence with an exquisite set of portal gates for the Renwick Gallery, part of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC.

As the scale of his work grew, so did his reputation as an artist. He has earned the description of “iconoclastic traditionalist” for his ability to successfully integrate naturalism and abstraction in a personal and highly recognizable aesthetic. “Albert Paley’s work is assertively virile; huge bars of steel, twisted, hammered and welded as though in a giant’s smithy,” writes art historian James Trilling. “That it is also personal and graceful is the measure of his brilliance.”

Today, Paley’s work can be found in the permanent collections of such museums as the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York; the Museum of Fine Arts Boston; the Museum of Fine Arts Houston; the Victoria and Albert Museum in London; and the Memorial Art Gallery.

Commissioned by both public institutions and private corporations, he has completed more than 60 site-specific works. In addition to the Renwick gates, notable examples include entrance gates for the the New York State Senate Chamber in Albany and the Naples (FL) Museum of Art; a sculpture and plaza designed for Adobe Systems in San Jose, CA; and a plaza sculpture for AT&T in Atlanta, GA.

Most recently, he has completed a sculptural relief for Wellington Place, Toronto; a pair of entrance sculptures for the Columbia (MO) Public Library; *Threshold*, an entryway sculpture for the headquarters of Klein Steel in Rochester; and two works explored in the current exhibition—the 120-foot long entryway sculpture for the St. Louis Zoo and RIT’s *The Sentinel*.

The recipient of honorary doctorates from the University of Rochester, SUNY Brockport and St. Lawrence University, Paley holds an endowed chair at the Rochester Institute of Technology.

In 1995 he became the first metal sculptor to receive the coveted Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Institute for Architects, the AIA’s highest award to a non-architect.

In October 2009, a retrospective of Paley’s work opened at [Grounds for Sculpture](#), a 35-acre museum and sculpture park in Hamilton, NJ. “Craftsmanship of the highest order characterizes every sculpture in this show,” wrote reviewer Benjamin Genocchio in the New York Times ([February 5, 2010](#)). “So smooth and fluid are the transitions that it is hard to believe these sculptures are made of metal.”

Catalog

Albert Paley in the 21st Century will be accompanied by a full-color, 172-page catalog, available at the Gallery Store in softcover and hardcover. [Store information](#)

Memorial Art Gallery website

mag.rochester.edu

Artist website

www.albertpaley.com

Press contacts

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March 24, 2010

ALBERT PALEY IN THE 21ST CENTURY: PROGRAMS & EVENTS

SPECIAL EVENT

Friday, April 30, 6–11 pm

“Party with Paley.” Celebrate the opening of *Albert Paley in the 21st Century* with indoor gardens, gourmet picnic catered by Max, live entertainment, dancing, an auction and a sneak peek at the exhibition. Event patrons will also be invited to a VIP reception hosted by the artist. This will be an evening to remember!

Presented by the Gallery’s Board of Managers to benefit MAG. For ticket information contact Nancy Holowka, 276.8903 (nholowka@mag.rochester.edu).

Sponsored by Klein Steel Service Inc.

EXHIBITION OPENING PARTY

Saturday, May 1, 8–11 pm

Supporter members and above free; associate members \$10; non-members and guests \$20*

Sponsored by the Democrat and Chronicle

- Dance in the M&T Bank Ballroom (or just jam in the Vanden Brul Pavilion) to music by Gap Mangione.
- Hear an eclectic program by UR’s Vocal Point all-female a cappella group.
- Enjoy a mini-concert on the Italian Baroque organ by Daniel Aune.
- Purchase light fare, desserts, coffee and cocktails served by Max at the Gallery.

** This party is sure to be a sellout! Advance tickets required. For recorded information call 585.276.8901. Non-member tickets also available at all area Wegmans.*

ARTIST LECTURE

Sunday, May 2, 3 pm, auditorium / included in MAG admission (free to members)

Albert Paley will give an illustrated lecture on his work.

ESPECIALLY FOR EDUCATORS

*Wednesday, May 12, 4:30–7 pm / \$30**

“Albert Paley in the 21st Century.” Explore the new exhibition as well as Paley’s local large-scale public sculptures. This inservice for art, ELA and social studies teachers includes visits to the exhibition, discussions and classroom activities.

**Preregistration is required; contact Kerry Donovan, 585.276.8971 (kdonovan@mag.rochester.edu).*

FAMILY DAY

Sunday, June 13, noon–5 pm / free

“Make It, Take It—Sculpt It!” The whole family will enjoy art activities that focus on sculpture, music and dance performances, and tours of the collection and the Paley exhibition.

Sponsored in part by JPMorgan Chase Foundation.

EXHIBITION TOURS

Sunday, May 2, 1, 2 and 3 pm; Fridays, May 7–June 25, 2 pm; and Sundays, May 9–June 27, 1 pm

These docent-led tours of the exhibition are included in MAG admission (free to members).



A NOTE ON FUNDING

To: Members of the press

From: Patti Giordano and Larissa Masny
Memorial Art Gallery public relations office

Subject: Funding for *Albert Paley in the 21st Century*

Exhibitions of this magnitude are expensive to organize. Indeed, they could not be offered to the community without broad support from private and public agencies. We ask for your help in giving well-deserved public recognition to these generous sponsors.

Bank of America



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Half-price general admission Thursdays 5–9 is made possible by ExxonMobil Chemical Co. and Monroe County.