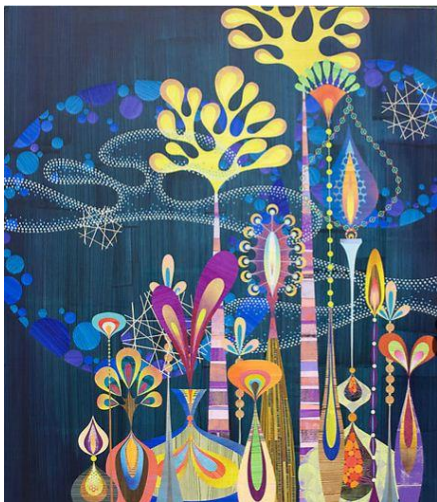
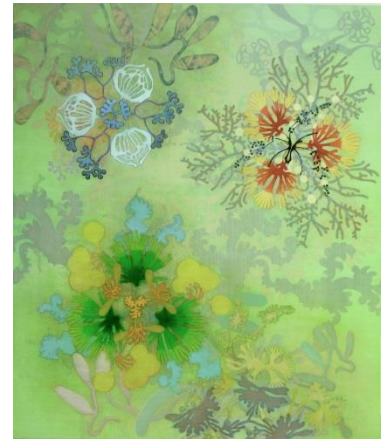


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## **McNay Art Museum Presents Abstract Painting in Summer Exhibition *Beauty Reigns***

San Antonio, TX- Opening June 11, *Beauty Reigns: A Baroque Sensibility in Recent Painting* features the work of thirteen intergenerational emerging and mid-career abstract painters, working in studios across the United States. The exhibition is organized by René Paul Barilleaux, the McNay's Chief Curator/Curator of Art after 1945, and celebrates the exoticism, exuberance, and optimism found in the artists' work. Among the shared characteristics found in this highly diverse group, in whole or part, are high-key color, layering of surface imagery, use of overall and repeated patterns, stylized motifs, fragmented representation, and a tension between melancholy and the sublime.



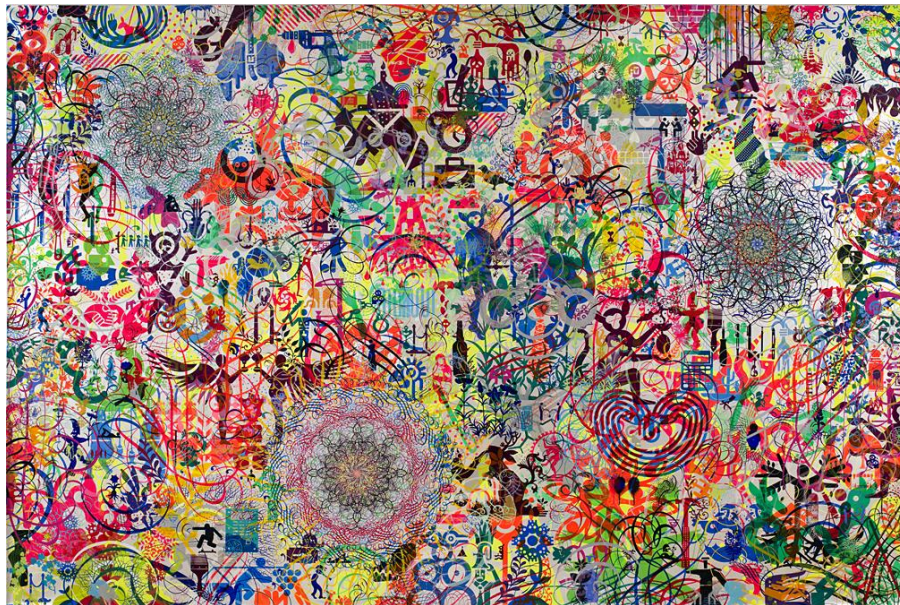
The exhibition surveys works by artists with both national and international perspectives. Americans Annette Davidek, Nancy Lorenz, and Ryan McGinness are based in New York. Charles Burwell lives and works in Pennsylvania; Paul Henry Ramirez in New Jersey; Rex Ray in California; Rosalyn Schwartz in Illinois; and Susan Chrysler White in Iowa. Global visual vocabularies are expressed in works by Jose Alvarez (D.O.P.A.), born in Venezuela and based in Florida; Kamrooz Aram, Iran/New York; Jiha Moon, South Korea/Georgia; Fausto Fernandez, born in Texas, raised in Mexico, and currently based in California; and Beatriz Milhazes, a Brazilian native who continues to live and work in her home country.

The exhibition is accompanied by an illustrated book of the same name that includes essays by Lilly Wei, a New York-based independent curator, critic, and editor at *ARTnews*; and Stephen Westfall, a

painter, writer, and professor living in Brooklyn. Wei and Westfall also contribute regularly to *Art in America*. Their essays contextualize the various artists' approaches to abstract painting, tracing their roots in 20th- and 21<sup>st</sup>-century art. Biographical and interpretative texts on each of the artists are authored by Barilleaux. The book, *Beauty Reigns*, reflects the dynamic nature of the exhibition in its visual aesthetic, expands the imagery seen in the museum, and offers a larger window into the work of these artists and their individual approaches to painting.

"*Beauty Reigns: A Baroque Sensibility in Recent Painting* confirms the vitality of abstract painting today," Barilleaux said. "This exhibition requires that the viewer travel to and voyage through visual territory that seems somewhat foreign, or somewhat familiar, yet always rewarding."

*Beauty Reigns: A Baroque Sensibility in Recent Painting* is on view at the McNay until August 17, 2014. The exhibition then travels to the Akron Art Museum in Ohio, where it will be on view January 24, 2014-May 3, 2015.



**Images available upon request.**

**Image credits:**

**Top Right:** Annette Davidek, *Untitled #14-01*, 2014. Oil on birch plywood, 42 x 38 in. Courtesy of the artist and Littlejohn Contemporary, New York

**Middle:** Rex Ray, *Menegodium*, 2009. Hand-painted collage on linen, 76 x 68 in. Courtesy of the artist and Conduit Gallery, Dallas, Texas

**Bottom Right:** Ryan McGinness, *The Lazy Logic of Ignava Ratio*, 2009. Acrylic on canvas, 96 x 144 in. Private collection. Courtesy of Ryan McGinness Studios, Inc./Art Resource, NY. © Ryan McGinness/Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

### **The McNay | Celebrating 60 Years | 1954-2014**

Built by artist and educator Marion Koogler McNay in the 1920s, her Spanish Colonial Revival residence became the site of Texas's first museum of modern art when the McNay opened in 1954. Today more than 150,000 visitors a year enjoy works by modern masters including Paul Gauguin, Vincent van Gogh, Edward Hopper, Georgia O'Keeffe, Pablo Picasso, Jackson Pollock, and Pierre-Auguste Renoir. 23 acres of beautifully landscaped grounds include sculptures by Kiki Smith, Joel Shapiro, George Rickey, and Luis Jimenez Jr. The 45,000-square-foot Jane & Arthur Stieren Center for Exhibitions, designed by internationally renowned French architect Jean-Paul Viguier, features three major exhibitions annually.

### **Hours**

Tuesday–Friday, 10 am–4 pm; Thursday, 10 am–9 pm;

Saturday, 10 am–5 pm; Sunday, noon–5 pm.

The McNay is closed on Mondays, New Year's Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

### **Admission to the McNay**

Admission to the McNay ranges from \$10 to \$15 (for adults) and \$5 to \$12 (for students, seniors and active military) depending on the exhibitions and galleries on view. Admission is FREE for McNay members and children 12 and under. Please visit [www.mcnayart.org](http://www.mcnayart.org) for current admission prices.

Entrance to Main Collection Galleries is FREE on H-E-B Thursday Nights (4–9pm) and on AT&T First Sundays of the Month. During FREE times, an optional admission charge applies only for entrance to special exhibitions.

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