

'Fluency' exhibition opens at Fosdick-Nelson Gallery

1/16/01

"Fluency: Sculpture by John Roloff, Katherine Ross and Walter McConnell" opens Jan. 24 in the Fosdick-Nelson Gallery, Harder Hall, Alfred University. At 11 a.m. Feb. 3 in Holmes Auditorium, Harder Hall, the three artists will gather for a panel discussion. "This is a unique opportunity to the artists to come together and speak about the work and the issues these three installations address," said Andrea Gill, chair of the Division of Ceramic Art, School of Art and Design at Alfred University. The Division of Ceramic Art is sponsoring the exhibition and the panel discussion and will host a reception at 12:30 p.m. in the gallery after the panel discussion. Both the panel discussion and the reception are open to the public. Joining the artists to offer a curator's perspective for the panel discussion will be Lisa Tamiris Becker, interim director and curator of the Richard L. Nelson Gallery and Fine Arts Collection at the University of California at Davis. She previously served as curator and head of exhibitions at the John Michael Kohler Arts Center in Sheboygan, WI, where she curated numerous exhibitions, including "John Roloff: Displacements," "Annabeth Rosen: A Luscious Symmetry," and "Gardens of Pleasure," a recent large thematic exhibition. "As the title of the exhibition suggests, each of these artists has developed work that is a meditation on the flow of water," said Gill, who is an associate professor of ceramic art. Ross is exploring rituals of cleansing and maintenance of the body; Roloff has been studying the formative role of water in landscape, and McConnell creates enclosed systems that are affected by the changing states of water in an artificial environment. "Fluency has multiple meanings for these artists," said Gill, referring both to the "expressions of thought through language, and the fluidity between idea and object." The artists in "Fluency" have exhibited nationally and internationally. Roloff's work has been seen at the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Oakland (CA) Museum and the Lance Fung Gallery in New York. His work has been reviewed in Artforum, Art in America, and the New York Times. Roloff is professor of sculpture and interdisciplinary studies at the San Francisco Art Institute. Ross has exhibited recently at the Columbus College of Art, the Southwest Ohio Cultural Center and the Rochester Institute of Technology. Her work has featured in The New Art Examiner, Ceramics Monthly and Ceramics: Art and Perception. Ross is chair of the ceramics department at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. McConnell, who is an associate professor of ceramic art in the School of Art and Design at Alfred University, has exhibited at the Marfa (TX) Studio of Arts, the J. Michael Kohler Art Center and the Museum Het Kruithuis in The Netherlands. His work has been reviewed in Ceramics: Art and Perception, the New Art Examiner, and the New York Times. "Fluency" will remain on exhibition at the Fosdick-Nelson Gallery through Feb. 15.