

FIU's New Frost Art Museum

Presents:

Because I Say So featuring Selections from The Scholl Collection

Miami- (March 11, 2009) – The Frost Art Museum at Florida International University will present *Because I Say So*, an exhibition featuring selections from the collection of Debra and Dennis Scholl opening on April 17th, 2009. *Because I Say So* is an exhibition that will provoke that answer to the question “Is that Art?” The Frost Art Museum will present sculpture and installations for which the artists have used materials ranging from the most ordinary (twigs, pins, scraps of fabric, etc.) to objects that make reference to the tradition of sculpture, but subvert that tradition in remarkable ways. This exhibit will showcase larger scale sculptural works that compliment the museum setting.

Major collectors Debra and Dennis Scholl present the often unseen sculpture that is central to their significant contemporary art collection. They describe their process as looking for “work that succeeds both on and below the surface, evoking a strong response, and not necessarily a positive one. “So long as a viewer is engaged enough to give a reaction, either one of pleasure or discomfort, we feel that the work has succeeded”. In this exhibition, viewers will note how sculpture in particular has confounded the status-quo, especially when it defies the ordinary association with works of art, or is considered as “installation” art, or as a part of an installation. The pedestals of the past, now long forsaken, are replaced by transformative environments, sometimes entire rooms dedicated to a single artist’s work. The viewer is confounded, confronted, invited, and amazed as one becomes immersed in the space. Works are placed directly on the floor; hung from the ceiling; described in site-specific locations; cantilevered off the walls; defiantly testing notions of scale, and stimulating daring responses. Each artist provides the viewer with a point of departure for an exploration of different levels of the mind and intellect not possible with traditional sculpture or painting.

The Scholls have been in the forefront as collectors and supporters of emerging and established contemporary artists for many years. Their vision for the future of their artists has not only

resulted in extraordinary recognition for work that was virtually unknown, but also, as they certainly “took chances” in their choices over the years, in the compilation of a collection that is as unique as it is provocative and representative of the cutting-edge of art.

Because I Say So will be opening along with Nela Ochoa’s: *Genetic Portraits* and the Spring BFA show on April 17th.

About the Frost Art Museum - Florida International University

The Frost is an AAM accredited museum and Smithsonian affiliate. The museum is located at 10975 SW 17th St. across from the Blue garage and adjacent to the Wertheim Performing Arts Center on the University Park campus. Its hours of operation are Tuesday through Saturday 10-5 and Sunday noon-5. The Frost is closed on all legal holidays. For more information, please visit www.frostartmuseum.org or call 305-348-2890.

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