

Media Advisory

For High Res photos, additional information or a free tour Please Contact:
Kathryn Peterson
Administrative Director, Museum of Florida Art
[peterson@delandmuseum.com/](mailto:peterson@delandmuseum.com) (386)734-4371

On display in Main Gallery at the Museum of Florida Art:

Fran Hardy: *Pentimento* On Exhibit: September 14, 2007 – November 25, 2007

The Museum of Florida Art will host nationally acclaimed artist Fran Hardy in a Solo Exhibition September 14 to November 25, 2007. Hardy's jewel-like works explore how the ancient inspires the contemporary as well as blurring the boundaries between realism and abstraction. Hardy masterfully draws from her experience in a wide variety of media and uses techniques from the distant past such as intaglio printing and the early renaissance technique of oil over egg tempera.

Now residing in New Mexico, Florida was the fertile base for Fran Hardy's work and career. She was drawn to Florida by childhood memories of visits to her grandparents who taught her a love of beauty and nature.

Nature is the inspiration and she draws from a number of sources. 'The Staghorn Series' explores the cycles of aging through the evolution of a staghorn fern. Another series of paintings melds the inspiration of Navajo textiles with the plants of the Southwest, her new home. A third series entitled the "Ancient Ones" centers around very elaborate, otherworldly large scale drawings of ancient trees and their interpretation into paintings which hover between abstraction and realism.

On the exhibition Ken Rollins, Director of the Gulf Coast Museum of Art in Largo Florida said, "Fran Hardy is an exceptional painter. With a keen eye, and commitment to craftsmanship, Hardy has developed a style uniquely her own. Fran Hardy's exquisite still life's move beyond representation into an ethereal world that transcends mere documentation. As a contemporary master of an age-old technique, Fran Hardy's work reaffirms the importance of painting in the 21st century."

Color has always been an important aspect of Hardy's work and she uses it with exuberant abandon in this new work. Curator Madelon Sheedy at the Southern Alleghenies Museum of



Myakka Flood by Fran Hardy



Myakka Mist by Fran Hardy

Art has said "It is obvious that Fran Hardy paints what interests and inspires her, emphasizing the interplay between light and dark and forcing us to look at, rather than into or through the commonplace. The elegance in her work heightens the importance of the ephemeral and makes it timeless."

Hardy begins her complex painting with drawings in pencil and graphite often on gessoed panel that writhe with an unearthly intensity. The realistic element in these detailed drawings is juxtaposed with abstract compositions rendered in a variety of media from egg tempera and India ink to oil pastel over watercolor as well as watercolor, graphite and encaustic.

Hardy also uses one of the original American French Tool presses made by Andre Beaudoin with a 44" x 80" press bed with the ancient art of intaglio printmaking in large format. Scratching into the copper plates has inspired the oil pastel over watercolor paintings where she scribes through the layers of oil pastel to reveal the

watercolor and render the elaborate drawings of her paintings with their abstract and realist underpinnings. She often uses mirror images to create a Rorschach-like mystery open to the viewer's interpretation.

Fran Hardy: *Pentimento* will be on display at the Museum of Florida Art, 600 North Woodland Boulevard in DeLand Florida September 14 to November 25.

Museum Hours: Tues.-Sat. 10 am-4 pm, Sun 1-4 pm.

Gallery Admission: Members - Free, Non Members - \$3.00, Children under 12 and Sundays – Free.

For more information, contact the museum at (386) 734-4371 or visit www.delandmuseum.com. To view more works by Fran Hardy, please visit www.franhardy.com



Old Age- Fragility by Fran Hardy

The Museum of Florida Art offers a venue where: creativity is fostered, appreciation of art is nurtured, all people are welcomed. The mission of the Museum of Florida Art is to integrate exhibitions and education to create an enriching and stimulating experience for a diverse audience. The Museum of Florida Art offers a venue for emerging and established Florida artists to support the cultural legacy of our state.

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