WSU’s Art Department Gallery presents
2010 MFA Thesis Exhibition 1:
Judy Chou, Leyla Munteanu, and Margarete Koenen

Wayne State University’s Art Department Gallery will present its 2010 MFA Thesis Exhibition 1: Judy Chou, Leyla Munteanu, and Margarete Koenen from Friday, January 8 through Friday, February 5, 2010. At the completion of their Master of Fine Arts degree programs at Wayne State University, Chou, Munteanu, and Koenen exhibit work that serves as a summation of their graduate experiences. Their insightful and finely crafted works illustrate why Wayne is considered as one of the top fine arts graduate programs in the region, from which many highly lauded artists have graduated.

Judy Chou takes delight in the physicality of paint. In her paintings, Chou creates texture, movement, and depth in the space. This traditional medium is forever refreshing to her in every new work she creates. Chou moved from Taiwan to the U.S. in 1997, and obtained her MA in Painting in 2001 from Wayne State University. As a true lover of the Asian folk dances, she redefines the energy and memory of such events in her current work. Chou is now completing her MFA in Painting from Wayne State University.

Leyla Munteanu is a mixed media artist. Her work has been exhibited in Windsor, Detroit, Birmingham (England), and Bucharest (Romania). Munteanu received her Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering from the Technical University of Bucharest, Romania, and a BFA from the University of Windsor (Ontario, Canada). She is now completing her MFA in Painting and Drawing at Wayne State University. Munteanu’s new work is sculptural, and is not created to create an illusion or an image of something, but is based on a mental, physical and emotional
state. Munteanu further explains her work by saying, “Each piece is seen as a body, a form that asks the right to exist. It is a relation between the form (body) and the space (environment). It is a projection of my feelings in this world and it addresses a formal and humanistic concern. It represents a human condition.”

Margarete Koenen’s large sculptural wall pieces incorporate materials traditionally associated with femininity. Beads, ribbons, yarn, tulle, and flowers are covered and transformed with layers of encaustic (wax). Their malleable nature is thus arrested, their softness abolished or sometimes accentuated to new effect. Koenen’s creations reference celebrations, but at the same time speak of loss. They address questions of femininity, personal and societal expectations of women, and the feelings of both hope and pain women encounter in trying to meet those expectations. Koenen received a BA (1981) in French and MA (1984) in French Literature, both from the University of Michigan. She is completing her MFA in Painting from Wayne State University.

The exhibition’s opening reception is on Friday, January 15, from 5:00 to 8:00 PM. It is free and open to the general public. The Art Department Gallery is located in the Art Building on the campus of Wayne State University, near the intersection of Cass Avenue and Kirby Street. Metered street parking is available, and is free after 6:00 PM.

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