

MILWAUKEE ART MUSEUM

March



Exhibitions

NOW ON VIEW

Elusive Signs: Bruce Nauman Works with Light

BAKER/ROWLAND EXHIBITION GALLERIES

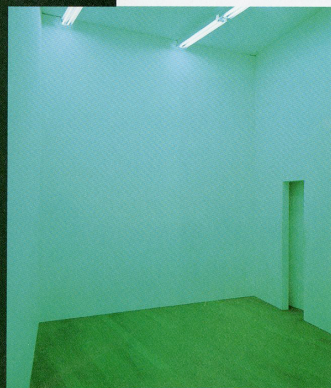
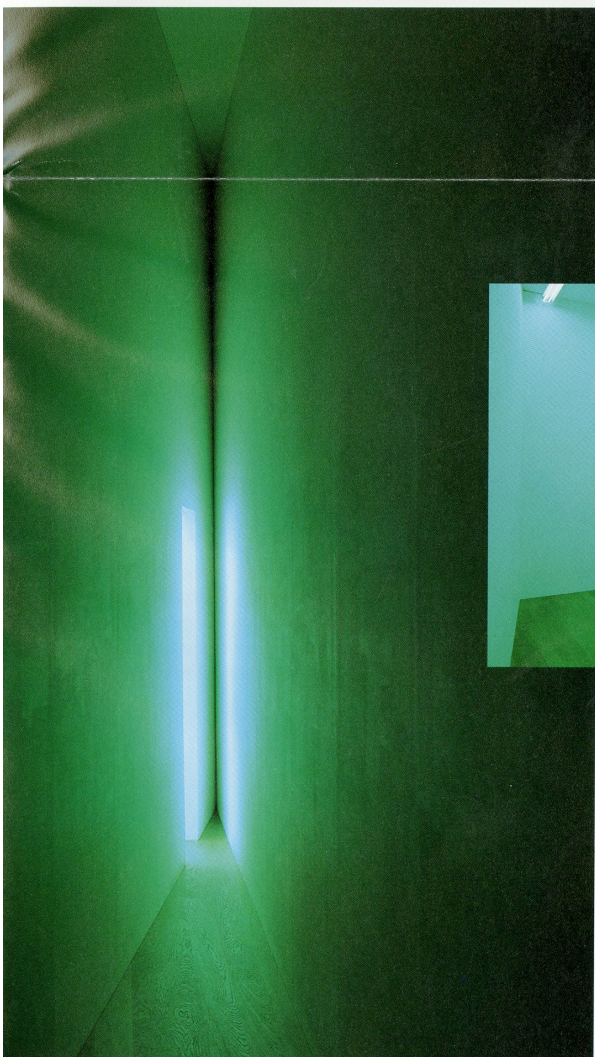
THROUGH APRIL 9, 2006

Elusive Signs: Bruce Nauman Works with Light goes beyond Nauman's works in neon to include fluorescent light rooms or light environments. These rooms overwhelm the senses with stimuli, creating a destabilizing effect that alters the participant's perception of space. Standing inside these rooms can cause a state of overload through deprivation.

Nauman filled the narrow storefront gallery of dealer Joseph Helman's space in St. Louis, Missouri, with a parallelogram bathed in acid-green fluorescent light. The skewed walls distort the perception of the room and the bright light melds floor, walls and ceiling. As a consequence of the visual barrage, hints of green's complementary color—purple—along with blue and pink enter at the fringes of the visual field. The viewer has to struggle to regain a sense of spatial relationship to the room she/he is in. The experience numbs the senses into confusion, while simultaneously heightening the senses to an understanding of how light and space shape perception.

The exhibition is curated by chief curator Joseph D. Ketner II.

Some neons depict adult material.



Bruce Nauman, *Untitled, Helman Gallery Parallelogram*, 1971. Friedrich Christian Flick Collection. Photo: Roman Maerz, Berlin.

NOW ON VIEW

Enter the Dragon: The Beginnings of English Chinoiserie, 1680–1710

DECORATIVE ARTS GALLERY

THROUGH APRIL 30, 2006

This exhibition is organized by the Milwaukee Art Museum and curated by Sarah Fayen, assistant curator of the Chipstone Foundation and MAM adjunct assistant curator.

Crisis of Modernism: The Post-Minimal Rebellion

KOSS GALLERY

THROUGH MAY 7, 2006

The exhibition is organized by the Milwaukee Art Museum and co-curated by chief curator Joseph D. Ketner II and Brooke Mulvaney, curatorial assistant in the department of prints and drawings.

ONGOING

On Site: Music on a Long Thin Wire

SCHROEDER GALLERIA

GALLERY TALKS

Elusive Signs: Bruce Nauman Works with Light

TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 1:30 P.M.

Take a tour of *Elusive Signs* with chief curator Joe Ketner. An exhibition ticket is required.

Enter the Dragon: The Beginnings of English Chinoiserie, 1680–1710

TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 1:30 P.M.

Explore decorative arts influenced by the Far East during a gallery talk led by Sarah Fayen, curator from the Chipstone Foundation and MAM adjunct assistant curator. Free with general admission.

Crisis of Modernism: The Post-Minimal Rebellion

TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 1:30 P.M.

View examples of the rebellious art that had an enormous influence on the development of contemporary art with chief curator Joe Ketner. Free with general admission.

Programs

SPECIAL EVENTS

MAM Film

THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 7 P.M.

"_____ : a daisy chain of video"

Join us for a program of videos curated successively and associatively by a daisy chain of curators, the links include: Thomas Schur, Abina Manning, Steve Reinke, Mary Lucier, Luke Sieczek, Jody Monroe Gallery, and others. Following the films the audience will determine the title of program. The organizing curator, Carl Bogner, has been assembling film and video programs, here and, briefly in Minneapolis, for some 10 years. Bogner is an instructor in the UWM Film Department, for whom he runs the Woodland Pattern Experimental Film/Video series and the annual Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival. \$7/\$5 Members.

First Fridays Celebrates Bruce Nauman

FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 5:30–10 P.M.

Come help us celebrate *Elusive Signs: Bruce Nauman Works with Light*. Try your hand at interactive art in Windhover Hall and enjoy the live music of Def Harmonic from 5:30–8 p.m. Then the super-soul sounds of DJ White Bread take over until 10 p.m. Continue the fun at the official after-party at Art Bar after 10 p.m. Enjoy docent-led tours of our feature exhibition for free at 6:15 and 7 p.m. \$20/\$15 Members/\$10 Students.



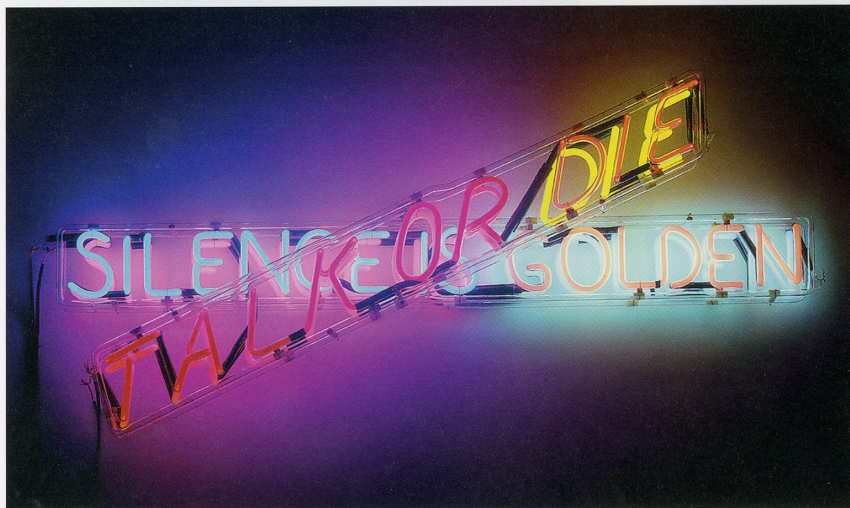
Sponsored by Target, Sprecher Brewing, WMYX, Shepherd Express and featuring Absolut and Vox Vodka.

Bruce Nauman Beyond Words with Robert Storr

THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 6:15 P.M.

Robert Storr, the Rosalie Solow professor of modern art at the Institute of Fine Arts of New York University, discusses the provocative and powerful work of Bruce Nauman and addresses his use of words in art that cut to the essence of human existence. Prior to his work at New York University, Storr was senior curator in the department of painting and sculpture at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Storr's writings have appeared regularly in *Art in America*, *Artforum* and *The Art Journal*. Free with general admission.

Sponsored by the Contemporary Art Society.



Bruce Nauman, *Silence Is Golden/Talk or Die*, 1983. Neon tubing with clear glass tubing suspension frames. Donna and Howard Stone, Chicago.

MUSIC PROGRAMS

Music in the Museum

It's Just the Gypsy in My Soul

TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 5:30 P.M.

Dr. Jeffrey Hollander presents a piano concert where you can once again revel in the wild and free gypsy spirit. Celebrate the exciting music by Edith Piaf, Django Reinhardt, Franz Liszt, Bela Bartok and Zoltan Kodaly. Following the concert take a tour of the exhibition *Enter the Dragon: The Beginnings of the Chinoiserie in England, 1680–1710*. \$20/\$15 Members.

Music in the Museum

In the Twilight of the Gods

TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 5:30 P.M.

Dr. Jeffrey Hollander transports the audience in an evening piano concert of music at Bayreuth in celebration of the magnificent summer opera festival. Ludwig Van Beethoven, Franz Liszt and Liszt's Transcription from Wagner Operas. \$20/\$15 Members.

Jazz Impressions

SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 2 P.M.

Christopher Burns and Steve Nelson-Raney perform improvised music for laptop, saxophones and cornet. Electronic and wind voices converse and collide in densely woven duets that explore gritty timbres and spiraling formal shapes. Both Burns and Nelson-Raney will perform solo improvisations to round out the evening.

Christopher Burns (laptop) is a composer whose works explore layering textures and materials on top of one another creating a dense and energetic sound. Steve Nelson-Raney is a composer/performer who is active in jazz and contemporary music. Free with general admission.

This program is inspired by the exhibition *Elusive Signs: Bruce Nauman Works with Light*. A separate ticket is required to enter the exhibition.

Fine Arts Quartet

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 3 P.M.

Enjoy a free afternoon concert by The Fine Arts Quartet. The Quartet, whose members are artists-in-residence at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, was founded in Chicago in 1946 and remains one of the most distinguished ensembles in chamber music today. They are among the elite few to have toured internationally without pause for nearly 60 years. Free.



Information

MY MAM: John and Sonja Nelson-Gurda

Historian John Gurda likes to remind audiences that the past is always present. That's certainly true in his life. The Art Museum has been a rich part of his past and it continues to be a valued resource to the present day. He and his wife Sonja Nelson-Gurda, a speech paraprofessional with Milwaukee Public Schools, have passed on an appreciation of the Art Museum to their children Nikolai, Kjerstin and Anders.



John: *The first time I remember visiting the Art Museum must have been about 1958. It was shortly after it moved into the Saarinen building, and my dad would drive my brother Paul and me there on Saturdays. Paul took art classes and I would poke around. When the Art Museum got the Zurbaran painting (St. Francis of Assisi in his Tomb) it was perceived as a giant step forward, a painting that put our museum on the map. It was exhibited in its own special alcove. Seeing it the first time felt like an audience with a rock star.*

Sonja: *We started visiting as a family when our children were little. They liked the Family Sundays program. The activities were fun—things like collage making or drawing that also engaged them with the collection. Usually we'd explore the exhibition, their favorites were always the Janitor and the Infinity Room.*

John: *We thought it was important for the kids to experience art, to learn the vocabulary. It opens their eyes to seeing and understanding things in a way only art can do.*

Sonja: *The nice thing about the family membership is you don't feel like you have to cram everything into one visit to get your money's worth. You can return any time, which means you can do an outing, but it doesn't have to be exhausting. As the kids got older, we all shared an interest in photography. We came to a lot of photo exhibits.*

Sonja: *We did family outings until the kids got to be high school age. Then they started going on their own, with friends. We found out later that Anders even skipped school one day to visit the Art Museum.*

John: *The kids are on their own now, but we keep our membership for ourselves, for times when the kids return home, or when friends are in town. It's fun to revisit old friends in the permanent collection. I still enjoy St. Francis, but I miss the Infinity Room.*

My MAM spotlights Art Museum users and their experiences.

Thank You!

Members are the Milwaukee Art Museum's best friends. At more than 21,000 strong, you link us to the community and the world. You know us the best, support us over the long term and deliver the message that Milwaukee offers world-class quality art experiences for everyone. Thank you for coming out to enjoy exhibitions and events, for taking the time to invite your friends and colleagues to the Museum and supporting us in so many ways.

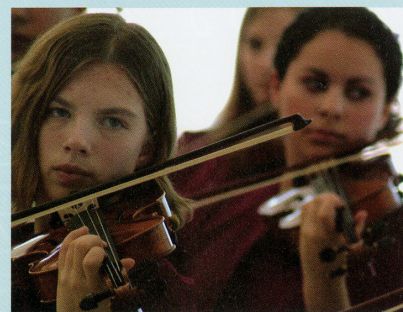
It's Time to Renew

We thank you for your support during this exciting year and look forward to your continued commitment to the visual arts in the year to come. By renewing your Membership, your Member benefits will continue uninterrupted, guaranteed.

Renewing your Museum Membership is easy:

- Mail in your statement
- Call the Membership Hotline at 414-224-3284
- Go online at www.mam.org/supportus/membership.htm
- Fax your renewal to 414-271-7588

Museum Members are our most committed partners, supporters and volunteers. Your Membership helps us provide quality programs and exhibitions, preserve our Collections and bring educational opportunities to the community. Thank you for your continued support.



Barcel Briosos, a local touring ensemble of young violinists, played at December's Family Sundays.

MILWAUKEE ART MUSEUM
700 North Art Museum Drive
Milwaukee, WI 53202
www.mam.org
Museum Offices 414-224-3200
Membership Hotline 414-224-3284
Information Line 414-224-3220

HOURS

Daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. except Thursday open until 8 p.m.
(Supported by the Greater Milwaukee Foundation.)

ADMISSION

General admission prices are free for MAM Members, \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors and \$4 for students, children 12 and under free. Audio guides for the Collection \$4.

Elusive Signs: Bruce Nauman Works with Light is a ticketed exhibition. \$14 for adults, \$12 for seniors and \$10 for students. Children 12 and under free. Tickets include general admission to the Museum's Collection galleries.

Members receive free previews before exhibition opens to the public and at least two free tickets after opening.

GROUP VISITS

Admission arrangements may be made for adult groups of 15 or more and school groups of 10 or more by calling 414-224-3842.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Join MAM's Volunteer Program by calling 414-224-3845.

ACCESS INFORMATION

MAM is wheelchair and stroller accessible.

PARKING

Underground parking garage.
West of Museum at O'Donnell Park.
North of Museum in War Memorial parking lot.

COLLECTION GUIDE

Visitors can purchase a guide to our Permanent Collection at the Museum Store.

PRINTING BY

BURTON & MAYER INC.
PRINTERS • LITHOGRAPHERS

Education

For a full list of winter classes for children, teens and adults visit www.mam.org or call 414-224-3826.

Featured Classes

Milwaukee Art Museum Downtown Studio Art Classes & Activities

KIDS & FAMILIES

Mixing with the Masters

Join us the second Saturday of each month this semester for an exciting morning at the Milwaukee Art Museum. Each month we will take a close look at a different artist and their artwork in the galleries, and then discover what it is like to create your own work of art reminiscent of that artist's style!

Saturday, March 11, 10:30 a.m.–noon (Calder)

Ages 4–8 with an adult caregiver

Fee: \$20/\$25 Members

Story Time in the Galleries

Join us for story time at the Milwaukee Art Museum, as we explore artwork, artists and authors throughout the Museum's galleries. During each story time, we will read a book that relates to a Museum artist or artwork and then create interpretive drawings of the story to take home.

Saturday, March 18, 10:30 a.m. (story time)

All ages (5 years & under require an adult caregiver)

Fee: Free with general admission. No pre-registration necessary.

ADULT STUDIO CLASSES (AGES 16 AND UP)

Color in the Collection

Do you ever wonder why an artist picked certain colors for a piece? Do you know why certain colors in art inspire you more than others? Do you know why some colors look great together? This interactive course starts by teaching participants basic color theory by using the Museum's Collection, as well as the feature exhibition *Elusive Signs: Bruce Nauman Works with Light*, to give a fundamental understanding of the color wheel, hue, complementary colors, cold and warm colors, color mixing, spatial effects of color and more. By understanding these practical terms participants will be able to understand art from a color perspective while learning the science behind color theory to analyze color in any context: fabric, paint, nature, interiors and more.

6 Tuesdays: March 7–April 11, 1–3:30 p.m.

Fee: \$205/\$185 Members

TEACHERS ONLY

Tours for Teachers

The Crisis of Modernism: The Post-Minimal Rebellion

THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 4:30–5:30 P.M.

Explore the rebellion against the severe aesthetics of Minimalism in the American art scene during the 1960s and 1970s with chief curator Joe Ketner. For additional information, visit www.mam.org or call 414-224-3827. \$2/Free for Members with proof of teaching status.

CLASS REGISTRATION

To register for classes at MAM's downtown studio, call 414-224-3826. To register for classes at the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center studio, call 262-781-9470 ext. 5023. Class fees include supplies unless otherwise noted. MAM's downtown class fees include admission to the Museum's non-ticketed galleries on the day of

each session. All registration closes five working days prior to class start date. If you cancel 24 hours prior to the first session of class, there is a cancellation fee of 50 percent of the price of the class.

NO REFUNDS AFTER CLASS STARTS.

Save on registration by becoming a Milwaukee Art Museum Member!

GIFT CERTIFICATES

Studio art class gift certificates are now available to purchase. Call 414-224-3826 for details.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are available for school-age students interested in pursuing art who are in need of financial assistance. Call 414-224-3826 for details.



Family Sundays *Enter the Dragon*

SUNDAY, MARCH 5, NOON–4 P.M.

Play with us at the Museum! Enjoy hands-on art workshops related to *Enter the Dragon: The Beginnings of English Chinoiserie, 1680–1710*. While you're here, participate in gallery activities, listen to music and win prizes. Free with general admission.

Free to Boys and Girls clubs with membership cards, free to Midwest Airlines employees. Free to kids 12 and under. Sponsored by Midwest Airlines.

March 2006

For event details, visit www.mam.org.

Drop-in Tours every Saturday at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Check the Web site calendar for details. Look for our new "Ask Me" tours on the Web site calendar.

2 THURSDAY
MAM Film
7 p.m.

3 FRIDAY
First Fridays Celebrates
Bruce Nauman
5:30–10 p.m.

5 SUNDAY
Family Sundays *Enter the Dragon*
noon–4 p.m.

CALENDAR KEY

- By reservation only.
Call 414-224-3200 for details.
- Free for Members.
- Free with general admission.
- Free for general public.
- Fee charged. Member discounts offered for some events.
- Exhibition ticket required.

7 TUESDAY
Music in the Museum
It's Just the Gypsy in My Soul
5:30 p.m.

Gallery Talk *Elusive Signs*
1:30 p.m.

9 THURSDAY
Tours for Teachers
The Crisis of Modernism
4:30–5:30 p.m.

Bruce Nauman Beyond Words
with Robert Storr
6:15 p.m.

12 SUNDAY
Jazz Impressions
2 p.m.

14 TUESDAY
Gallery Talk *Enter the Dragon*
1:30 p.m.

18 SATURDAY
Story Time in the Galleries
10:30 a.m.

25 SATURDAY
Fine Arts Quartet
3 p.m.

28 TUESDAY
Gallery Talk *Crisis of Modernism*
1:30 p.m.

Music in the Museum
In the Twilight of the Gods
5:30 p.m.



FROM THE STORE

Each piece in this beautiful line of metal work is entirely handmade by the Michael Aram Company, with no two examples ever exactly the same. The handmade quality of the work allows it to shift beautifully between the realm of fine and decorative art.

Poppy charger/platter \$75.60 (Member price)

No admission ticket required to shop.
Store hours: daily 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.; Thursdays until 8 p.m.
414-224-3210
Shop online at www.mam.org; click on STORE

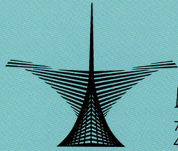


FROM THE COLLECTION

The gift of this painting makes an important contribution to the Milwaukee Art Museum's collection of Abstract Expressionist paintings from the 1950s. Joan Mitchell is from a younger generation of artists who came under the influence of Arshile Gorky, Willem de Kooning and Jackson Pollock. Moving to New York from Chicago in 1947, Mitchell studied with the influential émigré painter Hans Hofmann. Earning the respect of her colleagues, Mitchell became close friends with Franz Kline, de Kooning and others, participating throughout the 1950s as an integral member of the Abstract Expressionist cultural and social group. A lifelong feminist, Mitchell was one of the few women who achieved prominence amongst the predominantly male Abstract Expressionist painters.

The thick impasto, or thick application of paint and brilliant colors of this untitled canvas are characteristic of Mitchell's painting style. The bravura of the brushwork emphasizes that the paint is the subject and the object of Mitchell's work. The rich blues contrast sharply against the bright white gesso ground. The influence of Philip Guston's so-called abstract-impressionism is evident in this painting with the concentration of forms in the center of the canvas that dissipate towards the edge. This is not the overall, dark and foreboding abstract expressionism of Pollock, but a lyrical and colorful style distinctive to Joan Mitchell. Mitchell painted the canvas shortly after moving from New York City to Paris in 1959 where she was to live for the next 20 years.

Joan Mitchell, *Untitled*, 1960. Oil on canvas. Gift of Lynde B. Uihlein.



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700 North Art Museum Drive Milwaukee, WI 53202
414-224-3200 www.mam.org

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This Month at MAM

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Bruce Nauman Works with Light

THROUGH APRIL 9, 2006

Crisis of Modernism:
The Post-Minimal Rebellion

THROUGH MAY 7, 2006

Enter the Dragon: The Beginnings
of English Chinoiserie, 1680–1710

THROUGH APRIL 30, 2006

ONGOING

On Site: Music on a Long
Thin Wire

COVER IMAGE: **Bruce Nauman**, *My Name As Though It Were Written on the Surface of the Moon*, 1968.
Neon tubing with clear glass tubing suspension frame. Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam.