

Brooks Museum Takes Marisol Theme to South Main Arts District

Inspired by Marisol: A Sculptural Response *features 17 locally made sculptures on view in South Main shops and businesses May 12 – June 21*

Memphis, TN (May 15, 2014) — When the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art decided to take the concept of the upcoming retrospective exhibition *Marisol: Sculptures and Works on Paper* beyond the walls of the museum, Marina Pacini, Chief Curator, reached out to students enrolled in introductory and advanced sculpture classes at Memphis College of Art, Rhodes College, and the University of Memphis. Their mission: To create sculptures in response to work made by the Paris-born, Venezuelan artist who worked in New York City. Sixteen of those sculpture students were selected to participate in an exhibition that will be mounted in shops and businesses located in the South Main Arts District from May 12 through June 21, 2014. The spin-off exhibition, titled *Inspired by Marisol: A Sculptural Response*, is sponsored by Downtown Memphis Commission.

Born in 1930, Marisol was recognized in the sixties for her life-sized figural sculptures that are composed of drawn and painted elements; plaster casts; carved wood and stone; assembled plywood; industrial materials such as neon, Astroturf, and mirrors; and many found objects including clothing, televisions, and baby carriages. Often satirical, her art was inspired by sources as diverse as Pre-Columbian art, Cubism, folk art, and Surrealism.

The opportunity to play off her art proved stimulating and limitless, as witnessed by the varied sculptures the Memphis students produced. The three classes invited to participate in *Inspired by Marisol* were enrolled in introductory and advanced sculpture classes. The selected works range in size from one to eight feet tall with as many individual responses to Marisol as could be wished. The resulting exhibition provides an exciting and unexpected showcase for the students' *homages* to their muse.

Says Pacini, "My co-juror Jennifer Sargent and I are both impressed with the way the students took found materials and turned them into fully realized works of art. Several of them used old crates designed to ship Brooks artworks around the world and turned them into abstracted human beings. The sense of humor, pathos, and whimsy in the submissions will make Marisol and all the visitors to the exhibition smile."

Inspired by Marisol: A Sculptural Response will be on view in businesses in the South Main Arts District from Chapman Furniture to the South Main Book Juggler. To download a map providing locations for all the sculptures, go to <http://www.gosouthmain.com/marisol.html>.

The Trolley Night: *Inspired by Marisol* Artists Reception will celebrate the exhibition from 6:30 to 8 pm on May 30, 2014. The party, which is open to the public, will take place at the Pontotoc Café, 314 S. Main, with music from DJ Moi and complimentary refreshments.

Inspired by Marisol: A Sculptural Response is part of a summer-long celebration of Marisol, centered around the exhibition *Marisol: Sculptures and Works on Paper*, which will premiere at the Brooks Museum on June 14 and remain on view until September 7 before traveling to El Museo del Barrio in New York City. A catalogue, co-published by Yale University Press, is available worldwide. To learn more about the related exhibitions and programming organized in conjunction with *Marisol: Sculptures and Works on Paper*, #meetMarisol or go to www.brooksmuseum.org.

About the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art: Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, located at 1934 Poplar Avenue in historic Overton Park, is one of the leading art museums in the American South. Over 9,000 works make up the Brooks Museum's permanent collection including ancient works from Greece, Rome, and the Ancient Americas; Renaissance masterpieces from Italy; English portraiture; American painting and decorative arts; contemporary art; and a survey of African art. For more information on the Brooks, and all other exhibitions and programs, call (901) 544-6200 or visit www.brooksmuseum.org.

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