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On exhibit

Exploring the world of Pop at Hofstra Museum

While the attention is focused on the athletic field at Hofstra next week, the Hofstra Museum is bustling with activity during these summer months for those who want a summer art fix.

The Museum's Emily Lowe Gallery offers "Burton Morris: Pop!," a look at the world of the acclaimed artist Burton Morris. Building on the legacy of Pop Art masters of the 1960s and 1970s, Morris presents his personal world of popular American icons that puts a delightful spin on everyday objects and motifs. This exhibition, which opened in July, features 35 examples of Mor-

ris' work in his post-Pop style that boldly projects high energy and fun.

Morris' artistic predecessors include Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein, Tom Wesselmann and Red Grooms. He also employs some of the shorthand gestures of comic strips and magazines he has loved and emulated since childhood. These classic devices are seen in his simplified forms and action lines indicating movement joined with his rich acrylic colors. Morris imbues his art with his own impeccable style and optimistic frame of mind.

In his paintings, Morris energizes every day images with this unique style. Subjects such as a steaming coffee cup, a swirling martini, and a dancing popcorn box all take on a new life under his paintbrush.

"My artwork celebrates beauty and life while projecting an optimistic sense of high energy and style," Morris said. "I choose to paint objects and icons. I want to challenge the way we view everyday ideas in our modern day culture by representing the common object singularly, reducing it to an iconic graphic form and adding an energetic and colorful twist."

He continued: "My fascination with icons as a pictorial language is based upon my design and advertising background, communicating a message in its most sim-

plistic form. I admire the directness and limited color palette of an icon, sharply defined edges, and simple flat areas of color. I try to create an instant happening for the viewer with each composition I create."

"My artwork is always representational and made without recourse or distractions to the brushstrokes or shading. They are flat and uninflected, precise and fundamentally optimistic. I am a picture-maker and look at the world with a positive vision."

The exhibit runs through Sept. 27 in Emily Lowe Hall.

See some of the Pop Art influences that inspired Morris at "Andy Warhol: The Photographic Legacy Program, Recent Gifts to the Hofstra University Museum." This exhibit features photographs from a recent acquisition through the the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. The Hofstra University Museum was among a select group of college and university museums to receive a gift of 153 original photographs, both Polaroids and gelatin silver prints, by the noted Pop artist.

Taking multiple images of the same model or celebrity, Warhol sometimes translated these images into paintings or prints. This group of photographs includes celebrities such as author Truman Capote, model/actress Grace Jones and ice hockey



Popcorn by Burton Morris, 2008

player Wayne Gretsky. Warhol was known for his cultivation of celebrities and the famous pronouncement that everyone would enjoy 15 minutes of fame. These photographs are a glimpse into the artist's personal social life as well as his working method. From 1970 to 1987 Warhol took numerous Polaroid and black-and-white photographs, the majority of which have never been exhibited.

A selection of these photographs are on view from through Sept. 20 in the David Filderman Gallery, located on the Ninth floor of the Joan and Donald E. Axinn Library. For more information, call the Hofstra University Museum at (516) 463-5672.



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Gumball by Burton Morris, 2008