

CORCORAN

GALLERY OF ART • COLLEGE of ART + DESIGN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 18, 2011

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ANNUAL FREE SUMMER SATURDAYS AT THE CORCORAN GALLERY OF ART *May 28 – September 3, 2011*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Join the Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design for FREE Summer Saturdays – back by popular demand! This summer, from Memorial Day through Labor Day weekend, enjoy special exhibitions and programming free of charge in addition to Gallery tours, select workshops, demonstrations, and performances for all ages. Special programs celebrate the Corcoran Collection as well as temporary exhibitions and *Chris Martin: Painting Big* and *Washington Color and Light*.

Celebrate *Chris Martin: Painting Big* by exploring the intersection of art and life during *Take Your*

Painting on a Walk Day on Saturday, July 9, and attend the James Brown-inspired break dance performance, *Break it Down Like James Brown*, on Saturday, July 30.

Get creative and showcase your talent like the Color School painters with *Six-Forty by Four-Eighty*, a modular, interactive lighting installation designed to be re-sculpted by its audience, changing color in response to touch and using the human body as the conduit for digital information.

See a complete description of all activities below and for a full list of programming and registration information, please visit www.corcoran.org/freesummersaturdays.

Major support for Free Summer Saturdays is provided by the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities.



- more -

FREE Every Saturday

Chalk Drawings; 10a.m.–3 p.m.

Highlights from the Corcoran Collection will be illustrated in chalk by artists on the corner of Seventeenth Street and New York Avenue. *Weather permitting.*

Highlights Tours; 12 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Special Exhibition Tours; 2 p.m.

Every Saturday, join a FREE guided tour through the Corcoran Collection and special exhibitions, including *Chris Martin: Painting Big* and *Washington Color and Light*.

Saturday, May 28; 2 p.m.

Body

All Ages

FREE



The D.C. Commission on Arts and Humanities presents *Body*, a new performance by interdisciplinary artist **Chajana denHarder**. In *Body*, denHarder invites residents in all eight wards of Washington, D.C. to respond to the questions, “What do you most desire?” and “What have you lost?” Participants write their responses directly on eight life-sized body casts of the artist, one for each of the eight wards. In the culminating performance at the Corcoran, denHarder will use her body to collapse the eight body casts together. This final performance will be accompanied by a recording of denHarder reading the losses and desires from the casts. Her goal: to destroy

boundaries, to merge, to make the words indecipherable, and ultimately to reduce each body back to dust. Funded in part by the D.C. Commission on the Arts & Humanities, an agency supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Saturday, June 4; 10:30 a.m.–2 p.m.

Edible Color Wheel

First Floor Café; Ages 4-12 with adult companion

FREE

Use icing to discover how to mix primary colors into secondary colors and create your own edible color wheel.

Saturday, June 11; 12 p.m.–3 p.m.

Sketching in the Atrium

All Ages

FREE

Join us for sketching from a live model. All materials are provided.

Saturday, June 18; 10:30 a.m.–12 p.m.

Sculpt It!

Family Workshop; Pre-registration is required; Ages 5-7 with adult companion

\$8 per child, Corcoran Members at the Family level and above; \$10 per child, Public.

What kinds of things can you use to make a sculpture? Check out the variety of materials that artists use to create three-dimensional art - from mirrors, to spices, to bed sheets! In the studio, break away from traditional sculpture and get creative as you use a variety of materials to create your own three-dimensional masterpiece.

Saturday, June 25; 12 p.m.–3 p.m.

Sketching in the Atrium

All Ages

FREE

Join us for sketching from a live model. All materials are provided.

Saturday, July 2; 12 p.m.–3 p.m.

Sketching in the Atrium

All Ages

FREE

Join us for sketching from a live model. All materials are provided.

Saturday, July 9; 10:30 a.m.–2 p.m.

Edible Color Wheel

First Floor Café; Ages 4-12 with adult companion

FREE

Use icing to discover how to mix primary colors into secondary colors and create your own edible color wheel.

Saturday, July 9; 1 p.m.–4 p.m.

Take Your Painting on a Walk Day

Community Workshop; Pre-registration is required; All ages

\$12 Corcoran Members; \$15 Public

Artist Chris Martin often enlists the participation of friends, neighbors, and the occasional pet chicken to make and display his vibrant works. In public-art homage to his unique style, this class will have the opportunity to create a painting and go on a guided walk around 17th Street and the White House while engaging the public in their work. Participants will also be invited to take photos of themselves and their paintings around D.C. - or elsewhere - and submit them to the Corcoran website.

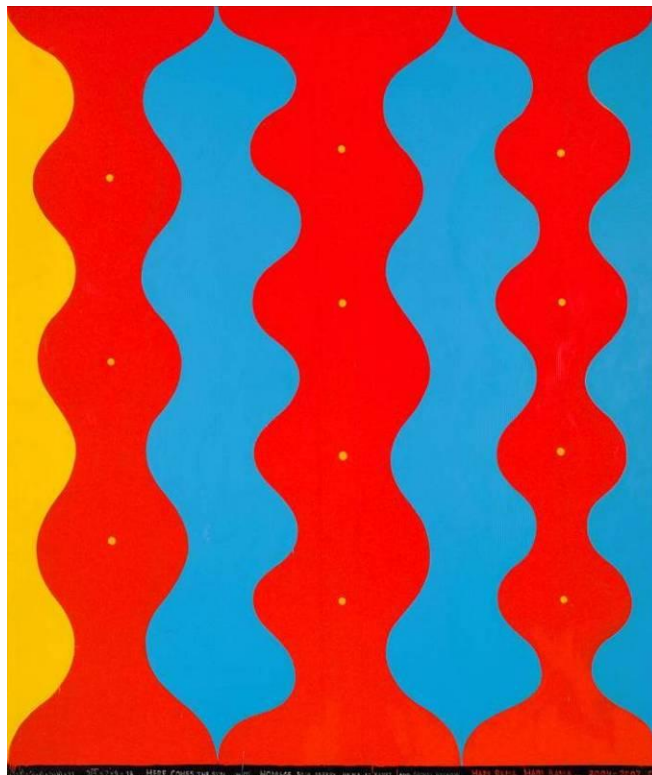
Saturday, July 16; 10:30 a.m.–12 p.m.

Paintings: It's Personal

Family Workshop; Pre-registration is required; Ages 8-12 with adult companion

\$8 per child, Corcoran Members at the Family level and above; \$10 per child, Public.

How personal can a painting get? Explore mixed-media paintings embedded with personal meaning and objects in our special exhibition *Chris Martin: Painting Big*. After the tour, create your own painting that incorporates found objects and personal mementos. Participants bring personal items such as favorite photos, CDs and toys to incorporate into a two-dimensional artwork.



Saturday, July 16; 2 p.m.

Kid Pan Alley

All Ages

FREE

Corcoran ArtReach students collaborate with Kid Pan Alley in a unique songwriting residency. Kid Pan Alley founder and professional songwriter, Paul Reisler, pairs with ArtReach students ages 8-18 for one week to write, compose, and perform original songs inspired by the Corcoran's current exhibition *Washington Color and Light*. The free concert

for the community will feature ArtReach students with Reisler performing their color-filled songs at the Corcoran Gallery of Art. To learn more about ArtReach, visit <http://www.corcoran.org/artreach/index.php>.

Saturday, July 23; 12 p.m.–3 p.m.

Sketching in the Atrium

All Ages

FREE

Join us for sketching from a live model. All materials are provided.



Saturday, July 23; 1 p.m. –3 p.m.

Say It Big!

Ages 12 +

FREE

The Corcoran's Atrium is filled with Chris Martin's big paintings that evoke a lot of big thoughts. Why not put them down on paper? Join us for a lecture, workshop and presentation on contemporary poetry with the Corcoran's Casey Smith, Interim Chair of Arts and Humanities, in conjunction with the Latin American Youth Media House's Howard Soloman.

Saturday, July 30; 10:30 a.m.–12 p.m.

Colorful Collages

All Ages

FREE

Participants will work together to reinterpret Alma Thomas' dazzling abstract paintings and create large colorful collages made of tissue paper.

Saturday, July 30; 1 p.m.–3 p.m.

Break It Down Like James Brown

All Ages

FREE

Groove to the same soul tunes that served as inspiration for many of Chris Martin's larger-than-life canvases, and watch the performers pop and twist against the backdrop of three monumental paintings commissioned just for the Corcoran's summer exhibition, *Chris Martin: Painting Big*.

Saturday, August 6; 10:30 a.m.–2 p.m.

Edible Color Wheel

First Floor Café; Ages 4-12 with adult companion

FREE

Use icing to discover how to mix primary colors into secondary colors and create your own edible color wheel.

Saturday, August 6; 12 p.m.–3 p.m.

Sketching in the Atrium

All Ages

FREE

Join us for sketching from a live model. All materials are provided.

All Ages

FREE

Join us for sketching from a live model. All materials are provided.

Saturday, August 13; 12 p.m.–3 p.m.
Sketching in the Atrium

Saturday, August 13; 2:30 p.m. –4:30 p.m.
Photo Safari

Pre-registration required; Ages 15 +
\$15 Members; \$20 Public

Join E. David Luria of Washington Photo Safari in the Corcoran's historic galleries to learn how to successfully photograph art in museums without using a flash or tripod. The program focuses on 18th through 20th century American and European paintings, sculpture, and architecture at the Corcoran. Participants gather in the intimate Reusch Conference Room (RCR) for a quick orientation before entering the galleries.

Saturday, August 20; 10:30 a.m.–12 p.m.
Light, Color, and Paint, Oh My!

Family Workshop; Pre-registration is required; Ages 5-7 with adult companion
\$8 per child, Corcoran Members at the Family level and above; \$10 per child, Public.

Journey into a world of fantastic color and luminous light in the *Washington Color and Light* exhibition. Return to the studio to experiment with the various techniques these artists used, including pouring paint onto canvas and using masking tape to make perfectly straight lines!

Saturday, August 27; 12 p.m.–3 p.m.
Sketching in the Atrium

All Ages
FREE

Join us for sketching from a live model. All materials are provided.

Saturday, September 3; 12 p.m.–3 p.m.
Sketching in the Atrium

All Ages
FREE

Join us for sketching from a live model. All materials are provided.

Chris Martin: Painting Big
June 18 – October 23, 2011

Chris Martin: Painting Big is Martin's first one-artist museum exhibition and the first exhibition of his work in Washington, D.C. Spanning three spaces in the Corcoran, the exhibition includes large-scale paintings commissioned for the Atrium, a focused selection of work from the past nine years, and in the Rotunda, a dense assemblage of small paintings from the last 25 years. The exhibition is the second in the Gallery's *NOW at the Corcoran* series, a contemporary program dedicated to showcasing the work of emerging and mid-career artists. For more information, including exhibition-related programming, visit www.corcoran.org/now.

Washington Color and Light
June 25–August 14, 2011

The Corcoran will reinstall *Washington Color and Light*, an exhibition of masterworks from the Corcoran's extensive holdings of Color School painting and sculpture, including a number of works never-before exhibited. *Washington Color and Light* presents major works by the artists associated with the Washington Color School and their

contemporaries, including Sam Gilliam, Alma Thomas and Helen Frankenthaler. The works are united by an exploration of the language of abstraction, a desire to experiment with materials, and a love of color.

Charles Sandison: Rage, love, hope, and despair
June 25–August 14, 2011

This summer, the Corcoran will debut *Charles Sandison: Rage, love, hope and despair*, a new acquisition from the Corcoran Collection by visual artist Charles Sandison. Housed in a dedicated gallery in the Corcoran's upper level, the installation will investigate a range of ideas and histories using darkness as the canvas and language as artistic medium. The work will be on view FREE of charge as part of the Corcoran's Free Summer Saturdays promotion. Sandison creates hypnotic digital projections utilizing text and color to represent emotions and physical states, placing the viewer in a dense sea of words that move in response to each other. The rhythmic movements of the vocabulary Sandison has used reveal what the artist calls an "emotional dialogue" —'hate' chases 'love' and 'love' breeds 'life.' Surrounded by the poetic constellation of words, the viewer is meant to find personal meaning in the fragmented narrative unfolding around them.

ABOUT THE CORCORAN

The Corcoran Gallery of Art, a privately funded institution, was founded in 1869 as America's first dedicated art museum and Washington's first and largest nonfederal museum of art. It is known internationally for its distinguished collection of historical and modern American art as well as contemporary art, photography, European painting, sculpture, and the decorative arts. In addition, a dynamic schedule of special exhibitions is complemented and enhanced by a range of educational programming, which together seek to enrich perspectives, support the local arts community, and encourage interpretation. **The Corcoran College of Art + Design** was founded in 1890 and stands as Washington's only four-year college of art and design, offering BFA degrees in Digital Media Design, Fine Art, Fine Art Photography, Graphic Design, Interior Design, and Photojournalism; a BA in Art Studies; a five-year Bachelor of Fine Arts/Master of Arts in Teaching (BFA/MAT); an AFA in Digital Media Design, Fine Art, Graphic Design, and Photography; and MA degrees in Art and the Book, Art Education, Exhibition Design, Interior Design, Master of Arts in Teaching, and New Media Photojournalism. The College's Continuing Education program offers part-time credit and non-credit classes for children and adults and draws more than 2,500 participants each year. For more information about the **Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design**, visit www.corcoran.org.

Page one: Chris Martin, *Ganges Sunrise Asi Ghat Varanasi...*, 2002. Oil on canvas, 129 x 143 inches. Courtesy of the artist and Mitchell-Innes & Nash, New York. Photo: Jason Mandella.

Page two: Courtesy of Corcoran staff.

Page three: Chris Martin, *Here Comes the Sun...*, 2004-2007. Oil on canvas, 143 x 129 in. Courtesy of the artist and Mitchell-Innes & Nash, New York. Photo: Jason Mandella.

Page four: Alma Thomas, *Pansies in Washington*, 1969. Acrylic on canvas, 50 x 48 inches. Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., Gift of Vincent Melzac, 1972.9.1. © Estate of Alma Thomas.