

9-2008

# The Conjuror: Images and Forms by David Larson

Department of Art

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# CULTURAL AFFAIRS/DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES

## GRANT APPLICATION

I. Applicant/Organization: **Lord Hall Gallery of Art, Department of Art**

II. a. Responsible Organization Officer: **Laurie E. Hicks**

b. Title: **Professor of Art / Curator, Lord Hall Gallery of Art**

c. Campus Address (include Email and Telephone): **201 Lord Hall /**  
[laurie.hicks@umit.maine.edu](mailto:laurie.hicks@umit.maine.edu) /  
**1-3247**

III. Summary of program requiring funding (title; featured artist(s); speaker(s); scheduled date(s):

**Title:** *The Conjurer: Images and Forms by David Larson* - an exhibition of drawings, paintings and sculpture by Maine artist, David Larson (b. Sept. 29, 1931- d. August 25, 2007)

**Exhibition Dates:** February 6 – March 20, 2009

**Gallery talk:** Soren Larson (artist's son and producer for Reuters): February 6, 2009

For more information about David Larson and his work, please go to: <http://www.larsonstudio.com>

For more information on these events, please see the attached information.

IV. Budget Proposal Form must be attached.

**SEND COMPLETED APPLICATION VIA EMAIL TO:**  
<mailto:wlegere@maine.edu>

For questions regarding the Cultural Affairs/Distinguished Lecture Series, please contact

Wanda Madden-Carr at 1-1516

Approved  
\$1600

**Art**

Submitted by: Laurie E. Hicks  
Professor of Art  
X3247

The Department of Art cultural programming will consist of two related events: 1) a major exhibition, *The Conjuror: Images and Forms by David Larson*; and 2) a gallery talk by Soren Larson, son of David Larson, producer for Reuters News and film-maker. David Larson (1931-2007) was a Maine artist whose mysterious images are powerfully hypnotizing and wonderfully beguiling. These events will offer students, faculty, staff, and the local community a wonderful opportunity to experience the mesmerizing works of a highly respected but under-exhibited Maine artist.

**Exhibition:** *The Conjuror: Images and Forms by David Larson*

David Larson (Sept. 29, 1931-August 25, 2007)

David Larson moved to Penobscot, Maine in 1971. Turning an old blueberry cannery into a home, studio and gallery, he proceeded to focus his life on the creation of visual explorations of the human condition. Larson, who died in the summer of 2007 from cancer, found humor in his images, humor that may not be obvious to many, but that provides an engaging vocabulary for talking about "the ludicrous aspects [of] the way we live and who we are" (Larson). Larson works in series, exploring recurring topics or concerns. These include the Moby Dick series, the Last Supper series, the Asylum series and the Falling Man series. An exhibition of Larson's work will be housed in the Lord Hall Galleries from February 6 through March 20. David Larson's son, Soren, will give a talk on his father's work during the opening reception, February 6. The exhibition and reception will be free and open to the public.

For further information on David Larson and his work, see the attached information and his website at <http://www.larsonstudio.com/index.html>

**Gallery Talk:** Soren Larson (son of artist, David Larson)

Soren Larson, a journalist, Reuter News producer, film-maker and painter in his own right, will speak about his father and his artwork during the opening reception for *The Conjuror* exhibition. In 1995, Soren interviewed his father, documenting not only his images and forms but also his sensibility as an artist and observer of human process. The video, "David Larson: A Portrait of My Father as an Artist" was aired on MPBN in 2001. The video will be available for viewing during the exhibition.

## Cultural Affairs/Distinguished Lecture Series Fund Budget Proposal Form

Applicant/Organization: Lord Hall Gallery of Art / Department of Art  
 Responsible Officer: Laurie E. Hicks  
 Event Title: The Conjuror: Images and Forms by David Larson  
 Event Date: February 6 – March 20, 2009

Total Program Budget:	\$1210.00
Amount Committed by Applicant Organization:	\$610.00
Total Amount Requested from Other Funding Sources:	\$0.00
Amount Requested from CA/DLS Committee:	\$600*
Revenues, if any, expected (fees, ticket sales):	\$0.00

Budget Breakdown of Expenses and funds to be used:	CADLS	OTHER
Honoraria/Services (explain below)	\$200.00	
For Soren Larson (gallery talk – will be traveling From NYC for this purpose)		
Travel	\$0.00	\$160
Van Rental (from UM campus to Penobscot)		
Advertising	\$0.00	\$0.00
Printing	\$400.00	\$0.00
Exhibition Cards		
Educational Materials (for distribution In Gallery)		
Posters		
Supplies and Materials	\$0.00	\$200.00
Exhibition supplies		
Other (must specify below)	\$0.00	\$250.00
Reception with Gallery Talk		
Total Expenses from CA/DLS funds:	\$600.00*	
Total Expenses from other funds:		\$610.00

# *Cultural Affairs Committee*

*and*

*Distinguished Lecture Series*

*c/o Wanda Madden-Carr*

*201 Alumni Hall*

*University of Maine*

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October 17, 2008

To: Laurie Hicks

From: Dorothy Croall & Dan Sandweiss, Co-Chairs

On behalf of the Cultural Affairs Committee and Distinguished Lecture Series, it gives us great pleasure to inform you that your proposal, *The Conjuror: Images and Forms* by David Larson, has been awarded \$600.

Please contact Wanda Madden-Carr at 1-1516 to discuss the procedures in place for the submission of financial expenses related to this award at your earliest convenience.

The following acknowledgement is required on ALL promotional material: *This event was supported in part by a grant from the Cultural Affairs/Distinguished Lecture Series.*

Attached is a form for your use to summarize the benefits derived from this grant. This form should be submitted within 30 days after the conclusion of the event. Timely submission of your summary will be considered as part of any future funding requests.

The Cultural Affairs Committee members congratulate you and wish you much success on this project.

cc: Cynthia Knowles

For many years the Department of Art has organized and co-sponsored a highly successful guest lecture and exhibition series that brings prominent artists, art historians and art educators to the University of Maine campus. The knowledge, abilities and work of these individuals have significantly broadened the academic and cultural experience of the University and its surrounding communities. Over the years, the series has continued to gain support and recognition for the quality and diversity of artists and scholars it presents. With the generous support of the Cultural Affairs/Distinguished Lecture Series Committee and the Department of Art, we were able to continue this tradition this past spring.

### **Exhibition and Gallery Talk:**

This past spring (February 6-March 20), the Department of Art hosted a retrospective exhibition of Maine artist, David Larson's drawings, paintings and sculpture in the Lord Hall Gallery. As David Larson died in the summer of 2007, this was a significant look at the body of work he created during his lifetime. The exhibition was open to the public at no charge. During the exhibition, Larson's son, Soren Larson, gave a gallery talk (Friday, Feb. 6)) on his father's work. During that time, he met with and answered questions posed by community members and students. He also met with an enthusiastic group of art students to discuss his father's imagery and way of working. Both events were well attended with more than 100 students, faculty, community members and local art teachers having the opportunity to hear and talk with Larson's son about the richness and intrigue of his father's paintings, drawings and sculpture. In addition, the exhibition was particularly well attended with numerous UM classes meeting in the gallery to discuss Larson's work and to watch a video interview with Larson that was recorded several years before he died. This video originally aired on MPBN. Though it is impossible to know the actual number of visitors to the gallery during the duration of the exhibition, it is safe to estimate that more than 400 people (including two groups of students from local schools) experienced the startling beauty and unnerving sensibility of Larson's images and forms while they were on exhibit in the Gallery.

### **Publicity**

For the exhibition and gallery talk, publicity was distributed through our extensive email list, the University of Maine website and events calendars, and through various news media opportunities.

In addition:

For the *Articulating Mystery* exhibition, we distributed 300 announcement cards across Maine and the country. In addition, the *Bangor Daily News* ran a story on Larson's work and *Art New England* published a very positive review of the exhibition.

### **Budget**

Please see attached document.

## Cultural Affairs/Distinguished Lecture Series Fund Budget Report

Applicant/Organization: Lord Hall Gallery of Art / Department of Art  
 Responsible Officer: Laurie E. Hicks  
 Event Title: Articulating Mystery: The Art of David Larson  
 Event Date: February 6 – March 20, 2009

Total Program Budget:	\$999.67
Amount Paid by Applicant Organization:	\$652.14
Amount Paid from CA/DLS Committee:	\$347.53
Revenues, if any, expected (fees, ticket sales):	\$0.00

Budget Breakdown of Expenses and funds:	CADLS	OTHER
Honoraria/Services (For Soren Larson's gallery talk. He traveling from NYC for this purpose)	\$250.00	
Travel	\$0.00	\$114.60
Van Rental (from UM campus to Penobscot)		
Advertising	\$0.00	\$0.00
Printing		
Exhibition Cards		\$132.27
Educational Materials (for distribution In Gallery)	\$97.53	
Supplies and Materials		
Exhibition supplies	\$0.00	\$142.05
Signage		\$28.31
Other (must specify below)	\$0.00	\$234.91
Reception with Gallery Talk		
<b>Total Expenses from CA/DLS funds:</b>	<b>\$347.53</b>	
<b>Total Expenses from other funds:</b>		<b>\$652.14</b>

8/2009