

**ATTENTION:**

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR SPRING ISSUE: **MARCH 1ST**. Information for future newsletters should be given to Kittye Delle Robbins-Herring, SAAC News editor, by email at kdrh@bellsouth.net or by phone at 325-2398 or 323-3113.

**PLATO'S CAVE AND THE LIGHT INSIDE**

The Department of Art in the College of Architecture, Art and Design at Mississippi State University announce "Plato's Cave and the Light Inside", a presentation by visiting artist James Turrell, Wednesday, January 23 at 7:00pm in Lee Hall Auditorium.

Turrell's works could be classified as earthworks and installations, dealing with color, light, and views and the "context of vision". He received his MFA for Claremont Graduate School in California after undergraduate work in psychology and mathematics. The impact of these various influences is felt in and through his art. He has spent decades reworking a volcanic crater in the southwestern US, reshaping the cone and digging in and reconfiguring the mass of the earth around it. Roden Crater is the yet unfinished master work which completely blurs the line between art and architecture. Fascinated by the various ranges of light from daylight to moonlight to even harnessing the light of Venus to cast a shadow, Turrell is impeccable at providing a context in which the senses are isolated and insulated so that they may perceive phenomena as never before. A window to the night sky allows one to see and feel the earth's rotation as one notices the stars swing past the window like trees beside the road.

Color also plays an important role in his work, again relying on the "context of vision" to provide the content for his moving works. Using colored lights and projections Turrell provides environments where the quality of light and even the color of that light are changing and consistently challenged. His Sky Spaces change the context in which even the blue of the sky is seen. Using materials and open-air structures that create windows of color around a canvas of sky again provides insulation from the normal daily context that we might take for granted the beauty and subtle color of the sky above us. A window to the clear blue sky, framed by the reflected color of a floor onto a simple ceiling, demands a pause, a listen, and gives us a moment of peace and tranquility in a more which less and less provides us this opportunity.

for more information:  
 contact the Department of Art, 325-2970



**AROUND & ABOUT  
 IN THE ARTS**

**JANUARY**

**January 11**  
**Opening of One-Woman Show,**  
**Works by Tamineh Borazjani:** New  
 Art Show at the GSDP gallery

**January 12**  
**Starkville-MSU Symphony**  
**Best of Baroque Concert:** Lee Hall  
 Auditorium, 7:30pm

**January 22 - February 14**  
**36th Annual MSU Art and Design**  
**Competitive Exhibition:** MSU Department  
 of Art Gallery, McComas Hall

**January 23**  
**Plato's Cave and the Light Inside:**  
 Visiting Artist James Turrell, Lee Hall  
 Auditorium, 7:00pm

**January 24**  
**Golden Triangle Music Forum:** Jean Blue  
 Taylor Memorial Concert, Alexei Grynyuk in  
 recital, Greensboro Center Auditorium, 7:30pm

**FEBRUARY**

**February 7**  
**Guest Artist:** Dr. William Yelverton, guitar,  
 McComas Hall

**February 12**  
**Lyceum:** Ladysmith Black Mambazo: Lee Hall  
 Auditorium, 7:30pm

**February 14-16**  
**Magnolia Film Festival:** Hollywood  
 Premier Cinemas

**February 16**  
**Starkville-MSU Symphony**  
**Association Fundraiser:** A Chocolate  
 Affair, MSU Union

**February 20**  
**Our Community Series:** Sessums  
 Community, Oktibbeha County Heritage  
 Museum, 9:30 - 11:00am

**February 21-24, February 26 - March 1**  
**The Cover of Life:**  
 Starkville Community Theatre, Opening Night  
 Party Sponsored by SAAC

**February 23 - March 20**  
**Mississippi Collegiate Art**  
**Competition:** Department of Art Gallery,  
 McComas Hall

**February 25**  
**Mrs. Shimada:** Artist in Residence, MSU  
 Architecture

**THE FIFTH ANNUAL SAAC GALA  
 "ART POPS"**

Lights, action and fun. The "joint was jumping" to the music of MSU's get-with-it band BARK. Laughter mingled in with bright 1970's colors of lime green, teal, silver and black. Several guests were heard to say, in different ways, "I remember the 70's well." The beautiful decorations in the lobby and dining room set a playful mood. The artworks, MSU memorabilia, items of unique charm and whimsy graced the silent auction tables; good food filled the buffet tables.



We honored Mayor Dan Camp with the SAAC's first annual "Award of Excellence in the Arts," following it with carefree awards to the Stars of 2007. Shining Star, Betty Jane Chatham. Shining Star, Bryan and Maria Prather. Bright Shining Star, Wanda Thorne. Bright Shining Star, Andy Gaston. Rainbow, Ruth and Armando de la Cruz. Super Nova, Dan Camp. We cheered, we clapped, and then the show began under a 1970's style disco ball with the music "Saturday Night Live" blaring. Mr. "Club 51" Brian Hawkins hit the dance floor and the crowd went wild. Various beauties from the front tables were pulled out on the dance floor; soon it was clear that "the hustle" still lives in Starkville. Dancing to the hip sounds of BARK finished the evening, and, frankly, this Cinderella's shoes were long gone when the clock struck 11:00.

We thank all those who attended, all those who gave of their time and talents to make it beautiful, Elaine Peterson for her amazing DVD presentation of past events, all those who donated the wonderful silent auction items, the MSU Department of Art as our co-sponsor, and You for supporting us.

**MARCH**

**March 4**  
**Lyceum:** Preservation Hall Jazz Band, Lee  
 Hall Auditorium, 7:30pm

**March 19**  
**Our Community Series:** Cool Papa Bell  
 Oktibbeha County Heritage Museum, 9:30-  
 11:00am

**March 28-30**  
**2nd Annual Charles Templeton**  
**Ragtime Music Festival**

**March 31 - April 25**  
**BFA Thesis Exhibition:** MSU Department  
 of Art Gallery, McComas Hall Gallery  
 5:30-7:30pm

**APRIL**

**April 3**  
**Lyceum:** Turtle Island Quartet, Lee Hall  
 Auditorium, 7:30pm

**April 9**  
**Our Community Series:**  
 Starkville 1861-1864, Oktibbeha County  
 Heritage Museum, 9:30-11:00am

**April 19**  
**Cotton District Arts Festival**

**April 24-27 - April 29-May 4**  
**Forever Plaid:** Starkville Community Theatre

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Here is wishing you a Happy New Year! The Starkville Area Arts Council had a very productive first six months of the fiscal year. A sincere thank you to a dedicated, enthusiastic, and supportive Board, membership, and community.

October found SAAC co-hosting the Mississippi Arts Commission "Art Means Business" workshop with the MSU Art Department. This workshop was attended by many local artists interested in marketing their art.

"Art Pops", the fifth Annual Gala Scholarship event held at Hunter Henry was once again a memorable event. The Arts Council awarded its first "Award of Excellence" medallion to Mayor Dan Camp in recognition of his contributions to the Arts.

Our fundraising events to date have allowed SAAC to award numerous grants to local organizations and to local events. These grants totaled in excess of \$11,000. Our Education Committee awarded, in November, over \$7,000 in grants to local county, private, and public schools.

Numerous local artists exhibited and displayed for purchase their artwork in the GSDP Gallery during the months of November and December. The hanging of this exhibit and the evening reception enjoyed by many was provided by our Art in Public Places Committee.

The new year will bring with it many SAAC sponsored events. We are proud to sponsor the 11th Annual Magnolia Independent Film Festival in February. Also in February, is the SAAC sponsored SCT theatre production and reception.

Of course spring will bring with it the much anticipated Cotton District Arts Festival and Arts in the Garden, both sponsored by SAAC.

Every successful organization relies on enthusiasm and support from the community. I thank you for your continual support. I invite you to join us in membership, as a volunteer on one of our committees, or simply as a spectator and participant of our numerous events. I look forward to the final six months of my term as SAAC President.

Barb Adkins,  
President

## American Life in Poetry: Column 114

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE 2004-2006

Poetry can be thought of as an act of persuasion: a poem attempts to bring about some kind of change in its reader, perhaps no more than a moment of clarity amidst the disorder of everyday life. And successful poems not only make use of the meanings and sounds of words, as well as the images those words conjure up, but may also take advantage of the arrangement of type on a page. Notice how this little poem by Mississippi poet Robert West makes the very best use of the empty space around it to help convey the nature of its subject.

### Echo

A lone  
voice

in the  
right

empty space  
makes

its own  
best

company.

American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation ([www.poetryfoundation.org](http://www.poetryfoundation.org)), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Poem copyright (c) 2005 by Robert West. Reprinted from "Best Company," Blink Chapbooks, Chapel Hill, NC, 2005, with permission of the author. Introduction copyright (c) 2006 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction's author, Ted Kooser, served as United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004-2006. We do not accept unsolicited manuscripts.

American Life in Poetry ©2006 The Poetry Foundation

## NEWS OF NOTE:

### Starkville/MSU Symphony Association

#### Best of Baroque Concert

The Starkville-Mississippi State University Symphony was in concert on Saturday evening, January 12th at 7:30 in Lee Hall Auditorium on the Mississippi State University campus in Starkville. The concert featured the talents of concertmaster and violinist Michael Bowman, principal flutist Lana Johns, and Jackie Edwards-Henry, harpsichord on the Brandenburg Concerto V by Johann Sebastian Bach. Dr. Iwao Asakura, MSU Assistant Professor, performed with the orchestra as bass soloist for Bach's Cantata No. 82 "It is enough." The opening number on the concert was the Suite in D from The Water Music by George Frederic Handel. Derek Taylor, MSU Student Concerto/Aria Competition Winner, performed the Lars-Erik Larsson Concertino for Trombone and Orchestra under the baton of guest conductor and SSO principal trombonist, Richard Human.

The concert served as the performance debut of a new Anden Houben harpsichord owned by Jackie Edwards-Henry. At 7:00 pm on the evening of the concert, Dr. Edwards-Henry gave a pre-concert talk about the building and performance characteristics of the harpsichord. Mr. Houben was in attendance at the talk and the concert.

#### A Chocolate Affair

The Starkville-Mississippi State University Symphony Association Board invites you to celebrate Valentine's Day at its first-ever fund-raiser - A Chocolate Affair - scheduled for Saturday, February 16th. Come join us and draw a deep breadth of delight as your eyes fall upon the elegant decor. Savor the taste of sumptuous chocolates, luscious fruits, and delectable cheeses. Inhale the rich aromas of selected fine coffees and spritzers. Feel the excitement as you and your loved one step onto the dance floor to dance to the beats of the MSU Jazz Band. Join the laughter as Good Grief presents excerpts from You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown. Enjoy the melodious sounds of the Symphony Chorus and your own voices as you sing along to some of the classic romantic songs of Broadway. Listen to the music of Jonathan Feng as he plays The Sweet Flavor of Chopin and Iwao Asakura as he performs A Voice of Romantic Artistry. All this in one magical, romantic night. Mark your calendars now! Don't miss A Chocolate Affair, in support of the Starkville-MSU Symphony Association. Saturday, February 16, 2008, from 7:30 - 10:00 p.m. in the Colvard Union Ballroom. Tickets are \$50 per person and can be purchased at The Book Mart on Main Street in Downtown Starkville or by phoning 323-4142 or 323-0528.

## World-Class Pianist Performs in Starkville

"... le pianiste Grynyuk, à la personnalité étonnante et à la virtuosité absolument transcendante..." *Le Figaro, Paris*

The Golden Triangle Music Forum (GMTF) is proud to present Alexei Grynyuk, Ukrainian pianist, in recital on Thursday, January 24, at 7:30 pm in the Greensboro Center Auditorium, in GMTF's annual Jean Blue Taylor Memorial Concert. Admission for adults is a minimum contribution of ten dollars to the scholarship that bears her name; it is free to children of all ages, a gesture in keeping with Jean's generous support of students' musical studies.

Grynyuk studied piano at the Kiev Conservatoire in his native country before winning a scholarship to study with Hamish Milne at the Academy of Music in London. He won first prizes in three prestigious competitions that attract contestants from all over the world: the Diaghilev Competition in Moscow, the Vladimir Horowitz Competition in Kiev, and the Shanghai Competition in China. In 2005 Grynyuk was among six winners of international competitions the Metropolitan Musuem invited to appear in a series of recitals. This was his New York debut. His audience received him warmly. After several encores, he left them applauding wildly for more. So great was their enthusiasm that the Met invited him to play again in 2006 in their distinguished pianists series. He was the only one of the six to be re-invited.

Acclaimed by Musical Opinion for his "breathtaking technical accomplishment and musicianship of the highest order" Grynyuk has been invited to appear in many international piano festivals such as Cervantino, Mexico; Dushniki Chopin Festival, Poland; and Musica Sacra Maastricht, the Netherlands. He has played recitals in Japan, South Korea, and Russia. The Chopin Magazine, Tokyo, acclaims his "divine purity" and "beautifully structured performance." GMTF is happy to provide Starkville with the opportunity to hear Alexei Grynyuk. *sponsored in part by the SAAC.*



"I regularly play at the Wigmore Hall -- fantastic venue in London for solo and chamber music. I went to play Rachmaninov Rhapsody and Tchaikovsky 2nd concertos in Casablanca and Rabat in Morocco, Kiev in Ukraine and Nottingham in England. Salle Cortot in Paris is another regular venue which I love for its acoustics and intimate atmosphere. Chichester Festival in England is another great place I played at this summer."

## ARTIST PROFILE

The Mississippi State University Art Department will host an exhibit of the paintings of Tsugako Shimada, noted Japanese Suiboku-Ga (brush painting) Artist, in the Architecture Building from February 25 to March 21, 2008. The MSU Art Dept. will honor her with a reception at the Architecture Building on Thursday, February 28, 2008.

In Suiboku-Ga there is no consistent school of thought. Each organization has its own house of origin and each uses its own style and method. Haruka Morimoto, Mrs. Shimada's teacher, developed a new style of painting that focuses on the Japanese landscape and atmosphere. It is in this style that Mrs. Shimada paints. The natural landscape with its high moisture level often creates a sense of mystique and a somewhat impressionistic image. Add this to the strong tie to Zen Buddhism, and it becomes easier to understand the feeling of calm and the importance of air and space in the paintings.

Mrs. Shimada will give a demonstration of her art at the Architecture Building on the Mississippi State University campus on Wednesday, February 27 from 3:30 - 5:00. The public is invited to attend. Thursday morning she will give personal instruction to a small number of people at the home of Lucy Phillips. Those interested in the private lessons may e-mail Lucy at. Attendance at the public demonstration is required for participation in the private lessons.

There will be a welcome-to-Starkville reception for Mrs. Shimada hosted by the Starkville Area Arts Council at the home of Lucy and Robert Phillips at 206 Woodlawn on Monday, February 25 from 4:00 - 6:00 PM. The public is invited.

## STARKVILLE COMMUNITY THEATRE

The Playhouse is almost never dark for Starkville Community Theatre.

Having just lowered the curtain on their successful run of "Sanders Family Christmas," SCT is in rehearsals this month and for the first weeks of January preparing its submission to the 2008 Mississippi Theatre Association Festival. Held January 11-13 in Hattiesburg, MS, the MTA Festival will feature community theatres, high school theatres, and various drama troupes from across the state in a weekend of performances, workshops, and social events as actors, directors, students, and teachers meet to share in their love of theatre.

SCT's entry this year is a three-man play entitled "Art," written by Yasmina Reza and translated from the French by Christopher Hampton. Winner of the 1998 Tony Award for Best Play and winner of the 1996 Olivier Award for Best Comedy, "Art" is directed for SCT by MJ Etua and features a cast of three mainstays at the Playhouse on Main - Kris Lee, Gabe Smith and Lyle Tate. Cary Huser, Thomas La Foe and Krista Vowell are members of the play's production team.

"Newsweek" describes "Art" as "a marriage of Moliere and Woody Allen." Lee plays the character of "Marc," and his best friend, "Serge" (played by Tate), has just bought an expensive, totally white painting. Is it art? Who decides? Marc and Serge's friend Yvan (played by Smith) comes into the discussion of whether this painting constitutes art, and words, accusations, and felt-tip pens begin to fly. Friendships are tested, and, in the end, the audience is left to decide with whom to side.

Two performances of "Art" will be scheduled for January 2008 at the Playhouse on Main. Information about these performances will appear via SCT's website and email listserv and via the "Starkville Daily News."

For more information, please contact MJ Etua at 662.418.6540  
Lyle Tate at 662.312.3610.