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For Immediate Release

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The Graham Gund Gallery at Kenyon College Opens, Promises Forum For Learning Through Art and Visual Culture

GAMBIER, Ohio – Opening this October, The Graham Gund Gallery at Kenyon College aims to make knowledge visible, to link seeing and knowing.

Featuring year-round programming in a diverse range of media, objects and schools of thought, the Gund embodies a passion for visual literacy in a place known for its literary strength. Under the direction of director/curator Natalie Marsh, the Gund looks to cultivate a greater understanding of the visual, through the lens of history and the context of the contemporary world.

“The Gund will foster ongoing intellectual engagement as well as enhance opportunities for both teaching and learning,” Marsh said. “It has been created to expand the rich liberal arts offerings of Kenyon College by cultivating a path-breaking discourse on interdisciplinary visual literacy—a key component of true critical thinking, the primary goal of a liberal arts education and a necessity for navigating life in the 21st century. The dedicated professional spaces of the new building make this ambitious mission possible.”

The newly constructed 31,000 square foot building offers much more than a familiar gallery experience. It is a place where categories will be challenged and learning will be championed.

Below the more than 6,000 square feet of exhibition space that crowns the second floor is the new home of the Department of Art History at Kenyon on the first floor. It features a more intimate curatorial classroom, as well as a seminar room and lecture hall. Film will also shine at the Gund. A spacious 132-seat theater will host inventive film, panel and lecture series.

As Marsh explains, “Different models of what has come to be called the ‘teaching museum’ have emerged in the past decade. Parallel to this movement, new types of museum staff positions have been created to link museum collections, exhibitions and programs to college and university curricula. Building on the successes of recent history, the Gund will uniquely focus on *individual student learning*, enabled through rich visual and conceptual explorations.”

The Gund will originate its own exhibitions, curated internally and occasionally by faculty and curatorial teams including renowned artists and scholars, and welcome traveling exhibitions, all guided by a spirit of interdisciplinary inquiry and exploration. Its inaugural exhibition, *Seeing/Knowing*, exemplifies this enterprise.

Featuring 16 contemporary artists from around the world, the show asks simply: Is seeing knowing? Contemplating subjects as various as biotechnology, computer programming, transnational identity and cosmological cartography, the art of *Seeing/Knowing* reveals and revels in the information, data and systems that shape our world. Drawing connections out of the seeming chaos of our daily bombardment by imagery and information, the exhibition artists reflect how we process contemporary life.

To complement its dynamic exhibition schedule, the Gund will host talks, lectures, presentations and events that will keep the conversation going both inside and outside the gallery. The inventive programming at the Gund will explore innovation, foster new experiences, and challenge categories and conventions by encouraging viewers to think out loud.

Inspired by the fantastic teaching that surrounds it, the Gund goes beyond the presentational, inviting viewers to interact and experiment, to learn through experience and make knowledge their own.

An excellent example of this approach is the Gund Gallery Associates program, which will employ approximately 15 students from across the college's many disciplines. Gund Associates will welcome visitors, offering thoughtful insights and additional information on the works exhibited in the galleries, while also working closely with Gund staff on researching and developing the Gallery's exhibitions and programs.

The Graham Gund Gallery at Kenyon College will be dedicated on October 27th and 28th, and opens to the public Saturday, October 29th. The Gund will be open six days a week: 1-7 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays; 1-10 p.m. Thursdays; 1-5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

CALENDAR LISTING: EXHIBITIONS

Seeing/Knowing

October 29, 2011-March 4, 2012

The Gund Gallery at Kenyon College

101 ½ College Drive, Gambier OH 43022

Kenyon College's new 31,000 square-foot facility for visual arts learning opens to the public with works by 16 internationally renowned contemporary artists who combine art and technology to explore the intersection of information and image exchange in contemporary culture. For more information including related public programs, call (740) 427-5972 or visit www.gundgallery.com.

Hours: 1-7 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays; 1-10 p.m. Thursdays; 1-5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.