

RIVIER COLLEGE ART GALLERY (FALL 2006 TO SPRING 2007)

Sr. Theresa Couture, M.F.A., D.Min.,*
Director, Rivier College Art Gallery

EXHIBITIONS (FALL 2006 – SPRING 2007)

September 18 – October 20, 2006 (closed October 9, 2006, daytime hours)

Works by the Rivier College Faculty in Art

Sr. Theresa Couture, Clifford Davis, Willard L. Hall, Loretta CR Hubley, Ron McClure, Sheli Petersen, and Patricia Schappler present recent work in a variety of media.

[See the article about the exhibition in this issue of the Rivier Academic Journal].

November 6 – December 8, 2006 (closed November 22-24, 2006)

Solos, Duets and Concertos – Recent Paintings by David Chamberlain

David Chamberlain is a painter, printmaker, and sculptor with extensive professional experience in the combined fields of fine art, design, music, and creative writing. His work appears in the permanent collections of art museums and educational institutions around the world as well as in numerous private collections. Recognized for developing the Chamberlain Method of (monotype) oil painting, he is the originator of *Duett Painting*, an intensely collaborative approach to artful compositional thinking. In this capacity he has worked with creative artists in multiple disciplines from all over the world. These include notable composers and award-winning musicians, as well as highly regarded actors, dancers, choreographers and poets. In 1995 he was the first American to do a collaborative artistic cultural exchange with Vietnam, and in 1997 he orchestrated a bi-national artistic collaboration in South Africa (Johannesburg) during the first year of its new constitution. He has appeared on programs presented by CNN, the BBC, NPR and IPR, among other media, including films and video productions, and in print. For several years he has served as a distinguished panelist, representing Creativity, at the Conference on World Affairs held annually at the University of Colorado. Rivier College is among the four institutions of higher learning where he has taught both undergraduate and graduate students (1991-1994). His courses have ranged from surveys, introductory studios, and advanced seminars to interdisciplinary studio projects and multi-disciplinary humanities courses. While he was at Rivier the Art Gallery featured an exhibition of his sculpture. This academic year we are pleased to now present paintings by David Chamberlain.

January 22 – February 23, 2007

Juried Art Student Exhibition

A selection of works submitted by Rivier art students and juried by Thomas Mills, artist and Professor of Art at the Rhode Island School of Design.

March 12 – April 17, 2007 (closed April 5-9, 2007)

This Great Fragility: the Art of Samuel Bak

This exhibition coincides with the Yom Ha Shoah memorial which takes place annually at Rivier College. It will also be accompanied by other related events.

The art of Samuel Bak witnesses to the Shoah, the Holocaust of the mid-twentieth century. It speaks a visual language of the Nazi exterminations in Poland and Germany, of the ancient legends of the Jewish people, of the personal history of a child prodigy grown to artistic maturity, and of a mystical understanding of a God who perhaps presides over the perpetual strife between what we call good and evil. In his own words,

*My paintings convey a sense of a world that was shattered,
of a world that was broken, of a world that exists again
through an enormous effort to put everything together, when
it is absolutely impossible to put it together because the broken
things can never become whole again. But we can still make
something that looks as if it was whole again.*

Bak, a survivor of the Holocaust, reveals through his images a world sorely in need of repair. He does this with a uniquely complex imagination that brings together a profusion of metaphors, symbols, and stylistic preferences drawn from personal experience, Jewish tradition, Catholic tradition, and the history of art itself. Ultimately, Bak's work constitutes a powerful search for meaning, prolifically asking difficult questions concerning divine compassion, human defiance, moral responsibility, and the role of the artist in society.

Samuel Bak was born in Vilna, Poland in 1933. As that city came under first Soviet, then German occupation in the early 1940s, he and his family moved into the ghetto, and later to a labor camp, from which he was smuggled and given refuge in a convent. At the end of the war he and his mother were the only members of his extended family still alive. They emigrated to Israel in 1948 where Bak studied at the Bezalel Art School in Jerusalem and later served in the army. Eventually he became a citizen of the world, living in Paris and Rome, returning to Israel and then Paris, moving to Switzerland and finally, in 1993, settling in Weston, Massachusetts.

Bak's work has been featured in more than one hundred solo exhibitions in museums and galleries throughout the United States, Israel, France, Italy, Switzerland, Lithuania, and Germany. His work is held in museum collections around the world. Numerous scholarly monographs, exhibition catalogs, and films on Bak and his work have been produced. His memoir, *Painted in Words*, was published in 2001 by Pucker Art Publications and Indiana University Press.

This exhibition is made possible through the generosity of Bernard and Suzanne Pucker, directors of the Pucker Gallery, Boston, who are lending the work and providing logistical and staff support.

April 22 – May 4, 2007

Annual Senior Art Student Exhibition

Reception: Sunday, April 22, 2007, 3:00-5:00 P.M.

Gallery Hours: Monday-Thursday 11-4, 6-8:30; Friday 11-4; Saturdays and Sundays by appointment.

Please consult the Gallery website for updates and new information: <http://www.rivier.edu/rcadsite/2ADGal.htm>

For further information, call: Sr. Theresa Couture, Gallery Director for 2004-2005, at X8275
or the Office of the Department of Art and Music at X8276.

* **Sr. THERESA COUTURE** is an artist in digital and combined media. She received her M.F.A. from Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, Rhode Island; D.Min. in Theology and the Arts from Graduate Theological Foundation, South Bend, Indiana (partially coordinated with studies at the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, California and the Andover Newton Theological School, Newton, MA); and M.A. and B.A. in English from Rivier College. Theresa Couture combines an active studio life with a full professorship in art at Rivier College, a Catholic liberal arts institution sponsored by the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary of which she is a member. She has served as Co-chair of the Department of Art and Music and Director of the Design Program. She is currently Director of the Rivier College Art Gallery. Her work on paper has been exhibited throughout the United States. Many of her pieces are in private and university collections as well as in the collections of the Armand Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, California, and the National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, D.C. Her work has appeared in *Art New England*, *Christianity and the Arts*, *Insight*, *Face of the Deep*, and publications of Christians in the Visual Arts (CIVA).