

# Clifford Art Gallery to host Strong and Silent, Mark Robbins

Colgate University News

(Hamilton, NY – Sept. 2012) Colgate University's Clifford Art Gallery and the Department of Art and Art History will host an exhibition of work by artist Mark Robbins, opening on Sept. 5 and running through Oct. 14. The showing, which is free and open to the public, will feature an artist talk Sept. 5 at 4:30 p.m. in Golden Auditorium of Colgate's Little Hall, followed immediately by a reception.

Robbins, an architect and artist, works across the disciplines of photography, installation, and site-specific pieces to reflect the complex interaction of social and political forces within the built environment. They focus on the relationship between commercial and mainstream political representations and the actualities of daily life.

In a new large-scale mural created for this exhibition, PLAYBOOK, he places contemporary Colgate football players within the iconographic space of classical friezes and exuberant renaissance depictions of the body in ritual activity and battle.

In Households, a series of collages that bring together photographs of individuals and couples of different ages and lifestyles and their spaces, he examines the relationship between domestic décor and body culture.

Orders, a theatrical installation created for the Quito Biennial, reflects aspects of indigenous culture within the art and architecture of the colonial period. Stunning portraits of Rwandan architecture students in their spare domestic spaces make up the piece called Student Teacher.

Robbins became the executive director of the International Center of Photography in New York in July, after serving as dean of the Syracuse University School of Architecture since 2004. In 2005 he founded UPSTATE: A Center for Design, Research and Real Estate, an interdisciplinary resource for projecting urban futures.

Robbins has also served as director of design at the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), where he developed an aggressive program to strengthen the presence of innovative design across the country. From 1993 through 1999, he was the first curator of architecture at the Wexner Center for the Arts.

Individually and in collaboration with institutions such as the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York, SFMoMA, MoCA, and the Barcelona Museum of Contemporary Art (MACBA), he mounted exhibitions on work ranging from the architects Louis I. Kahn to Rem Koolhaas, and artists such as Dan Graham, Lorna Simpson, and Uta Barth. He has written numerous essays about art and architecture for journals, exhibition catalogues, and books, such as Evidence, Next Generation Architecture and Against Design, as well as monographs on the work of LOT-EK, Weiss/Manfredi and Guillermo Kuitca.

Robbins is a recipient of a Rome Prize from the American Academy in Rome as well as a fellowship in the visual arts from the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University, as well as grants from the NEA, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Graham Foundation and the State Arts Councils of Ohio and New York. He has received two artist fellowships from the New York Foundation for the Arts, in addition to holding residencies at the MacDowell Colony, the Ragdale Foundation, and the Chicago

Institute for Architecture and Urbanism.

Angles of Incidence, a monograph on his early work was published by Princeton Architectural Press and Households, a book of photographic portraits was published by Monacelli Press.

Located on the first floor of Little Hall, the Clifford Art Gallery presents approximately eight exhibitions a year. A teaching gallery, all exhibitions are selected by Colgate's art and art history faculty to provide examples of work executed in a variety of media that demonstrate issues originating in the academic curriculum. Another focus of the gallery is the display of professional work by contemporary artists, who are often featured in the weekly public lecture series.

The Clifford is free and open to the public from 10:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. on weekdays, and from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. on weekends.