

VISUAL ARTS

Look closely to see the future

We're over it: the schemes, the bubbles, the façades. We're demanding substance, accountability, and transparency in our lives and leaders, and that's starting to be reflected in the art world, too: real beauty, real meaning, forms that are clear and true. When the expanded **Weisman Art Museum** reopens in October with five new galleries, the initial exhibitions will range from **Marsden Hartley's** compact, modernist paintings to **Warren MacKenzie's** functional, Asian-influenced pottery—all accessible, aesthetically fine art. Graphic design—art intended not to obfuscate but to communicate—also plays a major role in exhibitions this fall (the Walker's "**Graphic Design: Now in Production**"). This is art that's as engaging as it is challenging, existing for something other than itself. There's still plenty of room for metaphor and imagination in these shows; we're simply assured, when looking at these works, of their desire not to take us for a ride, but to reveal places of insight and virtuosity. Here's the deal, they say. Let's talk.



7 Top Picks

9.1 The Soap Factory shows the work of recently incarcerated photographer Guo Gai, videographer Meng Tang, and sculptor Slinko, exploring the role of language and memory in shaping society. soapfactory.org ▼

9.6 The Nash Gallery shows "The Great Celestial Abstraction: Chinese Art in the 21st Century." nash.umn.edu

10.1 The Weisman Art Museum reopens with five new galleries, filled with ceramics, furniture, and rarely seen works from its permanent collection. weisman.umn.edu

10.21 The Groveland Gallery displays Tom Maakestad's bucolic landscapes and Tim Tozer's new adventures in abstraction. grovelandgallery.com ▼

10.21 Marcus Young, Jennifer Danos, and Natasha Pestich tweak museums in their MAEP show by, among other things, papering the Minneapolis Institute of Arts with ersatz posters and announcements. artsmia.org ▼

10.22 The Walker Art Center showcases cutting-edge commercial art in "Graphic Design: Now In Production." walkerart.org

10.30 The Minneapolis Institute of Arts shows the best of its antique "pictures of the floating world" in "Edo Pop: The Graphic Impact of Japanese Prints." artsmia.org

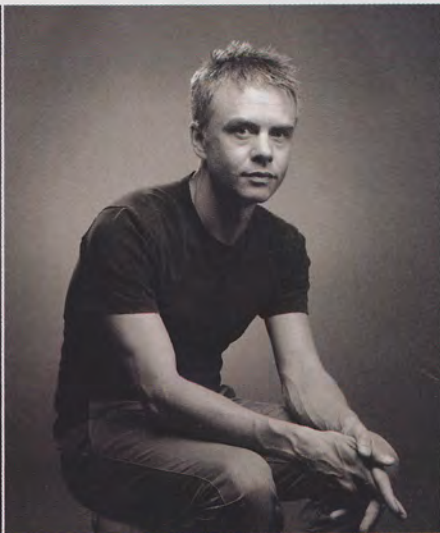
3 TO PUSH US FORWARD



MENG TANG > 9.1
Because as a Chinese artist living in Minnesota, she shows us the future—as confusingly multicultural and politically disparate as it is mono-cultural.



MARCUS YOUNG > 10.21
Because with Public Art St. Paul he compels us to use our imagination and challenges behavioral norms, whether through sidewalk poetry or public dancing.



TIM TOZER > 10.21
Because this British-born artist's shift toward abstraction is as compelling as his expressionistic images of beach-goers—strikingly modern yet nostalgic.



The 40 most-anticipated, must-see, what-are-you-waiting-for, drop-everything shows of the season.

Plus: 27 artists to watch (and why we love them)!

BY TIM GIHRING AND GREGORY J. SCOTT  **PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOE TRELEVEN**