



HERRON SCHOOL *of* ART + DESIGN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 21, 2014

Herron School of Art and Design announces 2014 Christel DeHaan Family Foundation Visiting Artist Lecture featuring Frances Whitehead

PRESS CONTACT:

Glennnda McGann

Assistant Dean for Development
and External Affairs
Herron School of Art and Design,
IUPUI

gmmcgann@iupui.edu

317-278-9477

735 W. New York St., HR224A
Indianapolis, IN 46202
herron.iupui.edu



Frances Whitehead

Image courtesy Frances Whitehead

Self-described “designist” (a contraction of designer and artist) Frances Whitehead will speak at Herron School of Art and Design on February 25 as the 2014 Christel DeHaan Family Foundation Visiting Artist Lecturer. The presentation will be in the Basile Auditorium of Eskenazi Hall beginning at 6:00 p.m. Whitehead will discuss her contemporary art practice as it relates to the process of shaping the future city.

Whitehead, a faculty member at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, is a leading proponent of the assertion that artists’ unique skill sets lend themselves to problem solving in a much broader arena than the arts.

Whitehead earned a B.F.A. degree from East Carolina University in 1975 and an M.F.A. degree from Northern Illinois University in 1978. Her public projects have been embraced in venues including the Chicago Botanic Garden and the Murray City, Ohio Office of Surface Mining. She’s been written about in *Sculpture*, *Art In America*, *Artforum* and *frieze*, and been recognized by awards from the Tiffany Foundation, the NEA and the Illinois Arts Council.

She walks the talk. Writing in *Art 21*’s blog in 2010, Claudine Isé described her buzz-worthy house as a model of sustainable technology, adaptive re-use and affordable

(continued)

What matters. Where it matters.



HERRON SCHOOL *of* ART + DESIGN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

green design, and “one of the most ambitious multi-disciplinary projects that Whitehead has tackled thus far.”

Whitehead played a lead role in the home’s creation. In 2008, The New York Times took note of the structure, reclaimed from a brick warehouse on a plot of land that was once contaminated by an underground gas tank.

Herron faculty member Laura Holzman suggested bringing Whitehead to Herron. “Many of the activities on our campus are dedicated to interdisciplinary collaboration and civic engagement,” noted Holzman. “Frances Whitehead’s creative practice has generated numerous cutting-edge examples of what that kind of work can look like. It is especially valuable to have her speak at Herron because she harnesses the specific skill set of the artist in order to make connections across institutional and social boundaries. I expect that her work, which combines ethics, aesthetics, and sustainability, will be of interest to many people in Indianapolis because these are issues that several groups across the city are exploring in their own way.”

Gallery Director Paula Katz said, “When Laura suggested Frances Whitehead to speak as the DeHaan lecturer this year, it was a no brainer. Whitehead’s numerous ecologically aware projects embody so many of the ideals that we strive to impart in our students in terms of becoming engaged citizens of the world.”

Other February events in the Herron Galleries include:

Ossuary, an exhibition based on bones, continuing in the Berkshire Reese and Paul Galleries through February 15.

Opening February 5 is Hope Seekers, in the Marsh Gallery—a multi-partner exhibition featuring photographs of child-led households in Swaziland. AIDS infects more than one in four people there, giving the country the highest HIV/AIDS rate in the world. The result is an exploding number of households headed by children, some as young as eight years old. There will be a discussion of these households on opening night in the Basile Auditorium at 6:00 p.m.

Also, in the Basile Gallery, Brent Aldrich—new installations that draw on geology, participation and neighborhood organizing.

On February 19, there will be a screening of Searching for Sugar Man—a buddy flick with two South Africans who set out to discover what happened to their unlikely musical hero, a 1970s rocker named Rodriguez.

-30-

What matters. Where it matters.