

PRESS RELEASE

Johannessen
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**Allentown Art Museum Shows Work by Philadelphia Artist
“Linda Lee Alter: A Life in Art” Opens With Preview Party on June 7, 2008**

ALLENTOWN, Pa.– The Allentown Art Museum has organized a career-spanning exhibition of work by Philadelphia artist Linda Lee Alter. “Linda Lee Alter: A Life in Art” will be on view in the museum’s Rodale Gallery June 8-September 7, 2008. The exhibition features 45 works, including Alter’s fiber art, a number of paintings, three works in metal and several examples of her early commercial work, such as book illustrations and other designs. A \$5.00 fee, in addition to regular museum admission, provides entry to “Linda Lee Alter: A Life in Art” and to the adjoining Kress Gallery where “William Wegman: Fay” will be on view. Museum members will be admitted free of charge.

“Linda Lee Alter: A Life in Art” and “William Wegman: Fay” will be unveiled with a public preview party on June 7, 2008, 6-8 P.M. The Alter exhibition will be complemented by a menu of programs and events: details follow.

Dr. Jacqueline M. Atkins, the museum’s Kate Fowler Merle-Smith Curator of Textiles, organized the exhibition. She notes that it is the first retrospective of this artist’s “refreshingly uncomplicated and unaffected colorful creations in fiber and paint. Alter’s unconventional and often witty personal interpretations of familiar stories will appeal to viewers of all ages, each of whom will find their own meaning in her work.”

Linda Lee Alter’s life has been devoted to an all-embracing creative exploration of the arts. Her work has ranged from vibrant fabric wall hangings appliquéd with lively allegorical depictions of fables and Old Testament stories to paintings that serve as

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metaphors for life events. Many of her works, which have been widely exhibited and collected, have served as inspiration for children’s book illustrations and greeting cards for family, friends and colleagues.

For more than twenty-five years, fabric was Alter’s medium, and she developed her own unique approach to creating wall hangings with appliqué and stitchery. In her fifties, she explored painting with acrylics, marrying the textures, patterning, and layering of color so characteristic of her fabric appliqués with the immediacy and fine detail possible with paint. Most recently, Alter has been working on a series of paintings and prints about the effects of trigeminal neuralgia (facial pain), from which she has suffered since 2000. Alter indicates that although the disorder sometimes imposes limitations on her work, “the act of painting sets me free.”

Contributing support for “Linda Lee Alter: A Life in Art” is provided by The Leon C. and June W. Holt Endowment.

Sustaining support is provided by The Audrey and Bernard Berman Endowment Fund.

Related Programs and Events

June 7

6-8 PM Preview Party: “Linda Lee Alter: A Life in Art” and “William Wegman: Fay”
Great food, drink, live music and socialization with the artists all contribute to an evening of celebration as we unveil our latest special exhibitions one night before the official opening day. Please R.S.V.P. by June 5: 610-432-4333, ext. 29 or events@allentownartmuseum.org.
Members free, non-members \$15

June 15

2 PM Guided Visit: “Linda Lee Alter: A Life in Art” and “William Wegman: Fay”
FREE with special exhibition admission

June 22

2 PM Guided Visit: “Linda Lee Alter: A Life in Art” and “William Wegman: Fay”
FREE with special exhibition admission

June 29

2 PM Guided Visit: “Linda Lee Alter: A Life in Art” and “William Wegman: Fay”
FREE with special exhibition admission

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July 6

2 PM
Fay”

Guided Visit: “Linda Lee Alter: A Life in Art” and “William Wegman:
FREE with special exhibition admission

July 13

2 PM

Guided Visit: “Linda Lee Alter: A Life in Art” and “William Wegman: Fay”
FREE with special exhibition admission

July 20

2 PM
Fay”

Guided Visit: “Linda Lee Alter: A Life in Art” and “William Wegman:
FREE with special exhibition admission

July 21-25

Zoo Zone: Half-Day Summer Camp for Children Ages 6-7

It's a zoo in here! Animals big and small are lurking in the museum. Enjoy a week of zany fun with our many furry and feathery friends!

Photography, painting, sculpture, stories and tons of fun are planned just for 6- and 7-year-old budding artists. Kids will make their own masterpieces and sneak a peak behind gallery walls to see what goes on in the day-to-day operation of a museum. This is a great way to introduce your child to art making, the world of art and summer fun at the Museum.

This camp session runs Monday to Friday, 9 AM–12 PM and is limited to 20 participants. Advanced registration is required. Fee (members \$65, non-members \$95) includes all materials and a nut-free snack. To register, call 610-432-4333, ext. 10.

A limited number of scholarships (one per family) will be offered for this camp session. Call 610-432-4333, ext. 32 to request an application (due June 1).

July 27

2 PM

Guided Visit: “Linda Lee Alter: A Life in Art” and “William Wegman: Fay”
FREE with special exhibition admission

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July 28-August 1

Imaginative Menagerie: Full Day Summer Camp for Ages 8-10
They're playful, curious and impressive. They're perching on pedestals, lingering in quiet spaces and just hanging around waiting for you to start some wild summer fun. Extraordinary animals are here, there and everywhere in the museum, captured in photographs, paintings, sculptures and decorative objects. Your young artists will make their own artworks, explore the galleries through lively activities and go behind the scenes to understand the daily workings of the Museum. This unique combination of art appreciation, art discovery, art making and storytelling could only be offered in a museum setting.

Camp sessions run Monday to Friday, 9 AM–4 PM and are limited to 20 participants each. Advanced registration is required. Fee (members \$165, non-members \$195) includes all materials. Each day, campers should bring a nut-free lunch and two snacks. Pre-care (8–9 AM) and post-care (4–5 PM) are available for an additional \$20 fee for both. To register, call 610-432-4333, ext. 10.

A limited number of scholarships (one per family) will be offered for each camp session. Call 610-432-4333, ext. 32 to request an application (due June 1).

August 3

2 PM

Guided Visit: “Linda Lee Alter: A Life in Art” and “William Wegman:Fay”
FREE with special exhibition admission

August 4-8

Imaginative Menagerie: Full Day Summer Camp for Ages 11-13
They're playful, curious and impressive. They're perching on pedestals, lingering in quiet spaces and just hanging around waiting for you to start some wild summer fun. Extraordinary animals are here, there and everywhere in the museum, captured in photographs, paintings, sculptures and decorative objects. Your young artists will make their own artworks, explore the galleries through lively activities and go behind the scenes to understand the daily workings of the Museum. This unique combination of art appreciation, art discovery, art making and storytelling could only be offered in a museum setting.

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August 6

12 PM Gallery Talk: “Linda Lee Alter: A Life in Art”
Dr. Jacqueline M. Atkins, exhibition curator
FREE with special exhibition admission

August 10

2 PM Guided Visit: “Linda Lee Alter: A Life in Art” and “William Wegman:Fay”
FREE with special exhibition admission

August 17

2 PM Guided Visit: “Linda Lee Alter: A Life in Art” and “William Wegman:Fay”
FREE with special exhibition admission

August 24

2 PM Guided Visit: “Linda Lee Alter: A Life in Art” and “William Wegman:Fay”
FREE with special exhibition admission

August 31

2 PM Guided Visit: “Linda Lee Alter: A Life in Art” and “William Wegman:Fay”
FREE with special exhibition admission

September 7

2 PM Guided Visit: “Linda Lee Alter: A Life in Art” and “William Wegman:Fay”
FREE with special exhibition admission

For information and directions: Little more than 90 minutes west of Manhattan and one hour north of Philadelphia, the Allentown Art Museum is located at 31 North 5th Street in Allentown, PA. Please visit our Web site at www.allentownartmuseum.org, or call 610-432-4333, ext. 10, to learn more about the Museum’s exhibitions and programs and to find directions from your location.

Museum and Museum Store Hours:

11:00 AM to 5:00 PM Tuesday through Saturday, 12:00 to 5:00 PM Sunday.
Closed Mondays and major holidays (including Thanksgiving and Christmas).

Admission: Tuesday through Saturday, admission is \$6.00 adults, \$4.00 seniors (60+) and students (with ID), \$3.00 children 6-12. Museum members and children under 6 are admitted free at all times. Museum admission is free on Sundays. A \$5.00 fee, in addition to regular Museum admission, provides entry to “William Wegman: Fay.”

Parking and Directions: Public parking is available on the south side of Linden Street between 5th and 6th streets and at the Allentown Transportation Center at 6th and Linden streets. On-street parking is also available.

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