

# Spineless Wonders

## Spineless Wonders: Invertebrates as Inspiration

September 8 - December 18, 2009

Atrium Art Gallery

University of Southern Maine's Lewiston-Auburn College

Opening reception, Friday, Sept. 11, 6-8 p.m.



Joseph Scheer

*Spineless Wonders: Invertebrates as Inspiration* celebrates the diversity of species for the 2009 bicentennial of Charles Darwin's birth and the 150th anniversary of *On the Origin of Species*. Invertebrates make up a vast group that includes worms, insects and their larvae, spiders, jellyfish, shellfish such as crabs and shrimp, squid, and more – 97% of all animal species are invertebrates. Paintings, prints, sculpture, poetry, video, and work in clay, metal, fiber, glass, wood, and stone by 56 artists from around the country are all part of this multi-dimensional exploration of the invertebrate world.

A poetry chapbook, *The Lowly, Exalted and Other Poems*, accompanies the exhibit, featuring poets who express a passion and curiosity about the invertebrate world.

Poems and other exhibit information are online at [www.usm.maine.edu/lac/art](http://www.usm.maine.edu/lac/art).

### The Lowly, Exalted

In the slow discovery of your home  
how completely you feel your way.

Working among epiphytes and fallen  
leaves—deliberate, silent as a separated  
tongue—you push between liverworts,

nudge the double-winged samara  
of maple seeds aside, and so go  
further, slowly, on.

Great maples loom and lean across  
this gorge, this lighted slot of sky,  
single October leaves dropping

a hundred feet in silent spirals.  
Can you feel their shadows spin  
and bump down in the dim ravine?

Our slight creek pours incessantly  
from cobble bowl to stilling pool.

The thin sun ricochets and squirms,  
lighting the dead fern—on the far bank—

silver. Hermaphrodite, glistening one,  
keeled and skirted, slick and textured

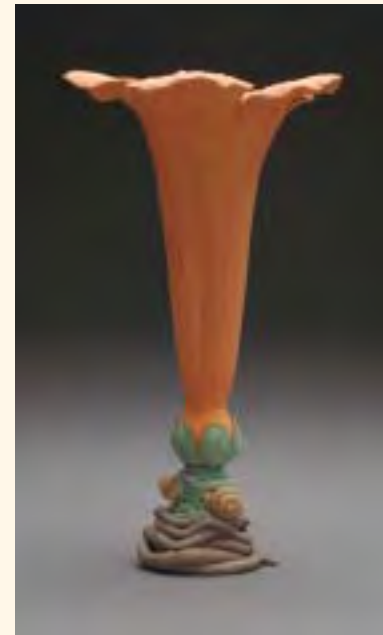
as the skins of fallen fruit:  
when confronted—your tentacles retreat

into your forehead,  
when abandoned—you extend, languid,  
deliberate; stretching for dim odors

and dusk—anticipating lichens, club mosses,  
the mucus of another like yourself—detecting

as you go, in millimeter ripples,  
every muted forest pulse.

-Bill Yake



Jean Nunez Donegan



Angela Devenney



Laura Zindel

### Artists in the Exhibition

Anne Alexander  
Nancy Morgan Barnes  
Libby Barrett  
Curtis Bartone  
Siri Beckman  
Christian Emerson Bell  
Holly Berry  
Robert D. Bryson  
Cole Caswell  
Catherine Chalmers  
Tim Christiansen  
Anne-Claude Cotty  
Sara Crisp  
Janelle Delicata  
Angela Devenney  
Jean Nunez Donegan  
Dan Dowd  
Nicole Duennebier  
Brian D. Farrell  
Wesley Fleming  
Kathleen Florance  
Rebecca Goodale  
Judith Greavu  
Consuelo Eames Hanks  
Alison Hildreth  
Mary Howe  
Liddy Hubbell  
Peggy Johnson  
Samantha C.S. Jones  
Mia Kanazawa  
Jean Kigel  
Judith G. Klausner  
Steven R. Kutcher  
Robert Lang  
Mike Libby  
Chloe Dee Noble  
Jill Nooney  
Hannah Niswonger  
Nancy O'Neil  
Wendy Newcomb  
Kit Pike  
Barbara Putnam  
Abbie Read  
Jann Rosen-Queralt  
Liz Saintsing  
Joseph Scheer

Dorothy Schwartz  
Ann Thompson  
Jacques Vesery  
Anneliese Vobis  
April Vollmer  
Dan West  
Melanie West  
Grace Willard  
Amy Youngs  
Laura Zindel

### Poets

Amy M. Alvarez  
Catherine Carter  
Robert M. Chute  
Barbara Crooker  
Annie Finch  
Lillian Baker Kennedy  
Carl Little  
Diane Lockward  
Patricia Smith Ranzoni  
Kim Roberts  
Jim Glenn Thatcher  
Kelley White  
Bill Yake



Judith G. Klausner



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**Spineless Wonders is presented in partnership with:**

**The Stanton Bird Club**, with programming that includes all natural history topics, offers two events with a focus on invertebrate ecology:

- Sat., Sept. 12, 8:30 a.m.-1:00 a.m., invertebrates field trip along the shores and tide pools of Two Lights State Park in Cape Elizabeth.

- Oct. 3, Sat., 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Fall Festival at Thorncrag Nature Sanctuary. A day of fun activities for all ages to discover the secrets of the forest, fields, and wetland habitats in the fall.

For details: [www.stantonbirdclub.org](http://www.stantonbirdclub.org) or call Susan Hayward, 782-5238.

**Auburn Public Library** will present activities for children including an urban field trip, creating a worm farm, writing poetry about invertebrates, puppet-making, folding origami invertebrates, discovering a zoo in pond water with a microscope and more. For details: [www.auburn.lib.me.us](http://www.auburn.lib.me.us) or call Sharon Hawkes, 333-6640.

**Lewiston Public Library** is a "Cornerstones of Science" Library, a national science literacy initiative for all ages, and will have displays and programming. For details: [www.lplonline.org](http://www.lplonline.org) or call Rick Speer, 513-3004, ext 3501

We gratefully appreciate the loan of audio-visual equipment from Agren Appliance and Television.

School and group tours of the exhibition are available free of charge. For more information contact Robyn Holman, 753-6554, [holman@usm.maine.edu](mailto:holman@usm.maine.edu).

[www.usm.maine.edu/lac/art](http://www.usm.maine.edu/lac/art). Exhibit hours: M-Th, 8-8; F, 8-4:30; Sat., 9-3; closed holidays.



Melanie West



Judith Greavu

cover: Wesley Fleming  
back: Mike Libby



Alison Hildreth



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Lewiston-Auburn College

51 Westminster St., Lewiston, ME 04240  
207-753-6500; TTY: 207-753-6511

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