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ARLINGTON NEWS

AMA exhibit opens Nov. 10

With the support of Northern Telecom, the works of three exciting Southern artists who received \$10,000 fellowships — David Szafranski of Dallas, Martin Johnson of Virginia Beach and Lynn Marshall-Linnemeier of Atlanta — will be on view at the Arlington Museum of Art from Nov. 11-Jan. 7.

New Works Fellowships: Northern Telecom was organized by City Gallery of Contemporary Art in Raleigh, N.C., and invited participating institutions include the Arlington Museum of Art, Cheekwood Museum of Art in Nashville and the Nexus Contemporary Art Center in Atlanta. Each institute nominated 20 artists to be considered for the fellowships by a distinguished panel of jurors: Peter d'Agostino, artist, Pew Fellow in the Arts and professor at Temple University; Dr. Mitchel Kahan, director of the Akron Art Museum; Karen Moss, curatorial consultant of the Santa Monica Museum; and Dr. Kristine Stiles, artist and assistant professor of art at Duke University.

This show marks the Arlington Museum of Art's largest commitment to date to present innovative works by regional artists. Director Joan Davidow participated in the selection process in which she nominated Szafranski and five of the eight honorable mentions, including Helen Altman, Jesse Amado, Otis Jones, David Mackie

and Marcos Rosales. The AMA presentation will include works of the five Texas artists, along with the traveling exhibition of the three winners.

Szafranski uses flat materials that can be woven, such as lawn chair webbing, video tape, bang caps and police barrier tape, to create objects that resemble elegant minimalist canvases, but whose identities change upon closer inspection. In Tom Moody's catalogue essay, he writes, "Szafranski's interest in visual artifacts led him to the current work, fusing the 'low' of material culture with the 'high' of modernist abstraction."

Szafranski recently won a "Best in Show" award from the Assistance League of Houston's juried exhibition and has exhibited at the Drawing Center in New York and the Contemporary Art Museum in Ghent, Belgium.

Johnson's work is a bulging assemblage of the objects he collects — discards from junk shops and discount stores. He assembles these objects into sculptures that literally and psychologically fill any space they occupy. Donald Kuspit writes in the catalogue, "It is standard Dadaist-surrealist operating procedure to regard ordinary objects as extraordinary art...Indeed, strange as it may seem to say so, Johnson is a kind of folk artist,

if more conspicuously and self-consciously avant-garde."

Johnson has exhibited at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, SECCA, and Chrysler Museum, and has been written about in *Art in America* and *Art Forum*.

Marshall-Linnemeier creates illuminated photographs. The original image is both obscured and enhanced by overpainting with acrylic paint. Clarence White writes in the catalogue, "(Her) distinctive accomplishment is her radical restructuring and repositioning of straight photographs and her subversive transformation of their content through painterly techniques and the persuasive power of her accompanying texts."

Marshall-Linnemeier received a 1993 Southern Arts Federation/National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in Photography.

Northern Telecom and its research subsidiary, BNR, employ 4,000 in its Richardson facility. Northern Telecom is a leading global supplier of fully digital telecommunications switching systems and a strong supporter of the arts.

Arlington Museum of Art is free and open from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. The museum is 1½ miles south of I-30 off the Cooper Street exit. For more information, call 275-4600.