



June 1, 2009

**On View at the VMFA Pauley Center**

**“Stranger Than Paradise”**

June 5–September 13, 2009

“The magic moment is to finish a piece and like what you see,” says Josephine Haden, whose work will be on view at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts beginning June 5 in an exhibition titled “Stranger Than Paradise.”

Haden lives in Arlington, Va., and was the winner of a 2009 VMFA Fellowship. Her paintings are included in public and private collections in the U.S. and France, including the Clinton Presidential Library and Museum in Little Rock, Ark.

The exhibition will be on view in VMFA’s Pauley Center through Sept. 13.

“Starting with landscapes, I found myself creating mysterious and distant places that hovered on the edge of reality,” Haden says. “Filling the canvas with lush vegetation and dense forests, I played with scale and space while relying on a base ground of gestural abstraction.”

She calls her latest series of works “Globalization,” meaning that everything is fair game when she composes a painting, and says she “beams them in” from some other place, from some other story or scene.

“My intention is to create delight and intrigue.”

Critic Donald Kuspit calls Haden an “eloquent” painter and a realist of sorts. “I say ‘of sorts’ because there’s an aura of eeriness to her reality, however precisely (always precisely) rendered – but her images are also abstract, which no doubt adds to their uncanniness.” Kuspit is the distinguished professor of art history and philosophy at the State University of New York at Stony Brook and professor of art history at the School of Visual Arts in Manhattan.

Earth, sky and water dominate her vast, open landscapes that are populated with evocative figures and objects from contemporary culture – a young girl riding a rubber ball as peacocks strut nearby, children around a campfire as white horses frolic in the distance, a child on a beach with an elaborate sand castle, or a boy with lizards beside a swimming pool.

Haden studied art and art history as an undergraduate at Georgetown University and earned a master’s degree in art history from George Washington University.

Both schools are in the District of Columbia.

Another VMFA exhibition of Haden's work, "Postcards from the Real," will be on view Oct. 13, 2009–Feb. 15, 2010 at Richmond's airport.

On Aug 11, Haden will be a guest teacher for a mixed-media class for teens at VMFA.

Pauley Center Gallery Hours  
Mon - Fri, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Sat, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

## **CHECKLIST**

### **"Stranger Than Paradise"**

1. Josephine Haden  
No Trespassing, 2004  
Acrylic on canvas  
Collection of the artist

2. Josephine Haden  
Peacock Diptych, 2008  
Above It All I (left) and Above It All II (right)  
Acrylic on canvas  
Collection of the artist

3. Josephine Haden  
Campfire, 2008  
Acrylic on canvas  
Collection of the artist

4. Josephine Haden  
Sea of Plenty, 2006  
Acrylic on canvas  
Collection of the artist

5. Josephine Haden  
Chameleon I (left), Chameleon Diptych, 2009  
Acrylic on canvas  
Collection of the artist

6. Josephine Haden  
Chameleon II (right), Chameleon Diptych, 2009  
Acrylic on canvas  
Collection of the artist

7. Josephine Haden  
Sandcastles, 2009  
Acrylic on canvas  
Collection of the artist

8. Josephine Haden  
Totem, 2006  
Acrylic on canvas  
Collection of the artist

9. Josephine Haden  
The Sky Is the Limit, 2006  
Acrylic on canvas  
Collection of the artist

10. Josephine Haden  
Rescue Diptych, 2004  
Rescue I (left) and Rescue II (right)  
Acrylic on canvas  
Collection of the artist

11. Josephine Haden  
Globalization, 2004  
Acrylic on canvas  
Collection of the artist

12. Josephine Haden  
The Skunk: Be More Open Minded, 2005  
Acrylic on canvas  
Collection of the Artist