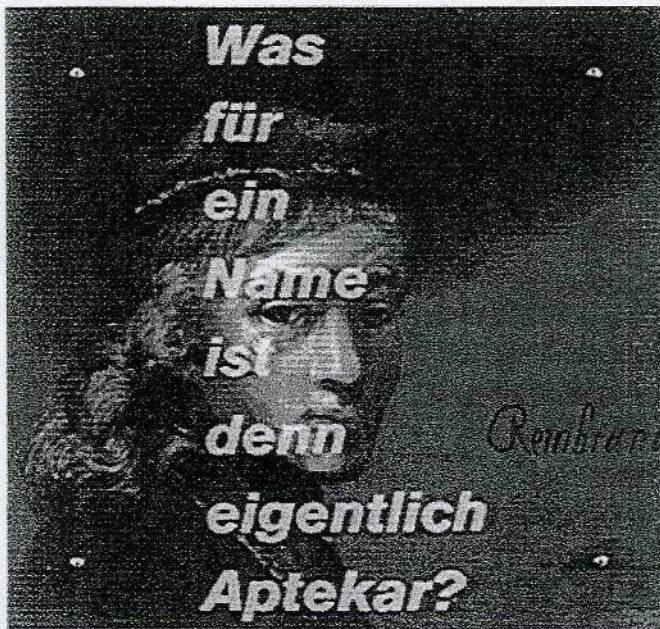


GALLERIES

Thru Mar 8 Ken Aptekar: *Painting Between the Lines, 1900-2000*

Art critic Harold Rosenberg once wrote, "A contemporary painting or sculpture is but a kind of centaur, half artistic materials, & half words." He was describing the way that the ideas & concepts behind artworks had become as important as craftsmanship & technique. It wasn't long afterward that artists began exhibiting paintings made up entirely of words. Painter Ken Aptekar combines conceptual wordplay with an old-fashioned mastery of painting. He begins by skillfully reproducing old-master paintings by the likes of Rembrandt, Raphael & Manet in ways that call attention to the fact that his subjects are images or signs, rather than figures from the real world. He might show only part of a painting, for example, or repeat it or pair it with another work. Stories & phrases sandblasted onto reflective glass are riveted over the surface of each canvas, creating a layer of words & mirror-like reflections thru which

IMAGE COURTESY OF THE BERNICE STEINBAUM GALLERY



to view art history. It suggests that there is no such thing as objectivity, that all is interpretation. Based on anecdotes from his personal life, Ken Aptekar's stories address the issues of Jewish identity, masculinity & the role of the artist in society. He robs the treasure-trove of art history in order to pose questions about art, history, personal identity & his own place in the world. He offers no easy answers, but his restless Talmudic questioning provides a model of a kind of critical thinking that's far too rare in the world today.

— Preview by Frank Green

Tue-Fri 10:30 am-4:30 pm, Sat & Sun 1-5 pm; free; College of Wooster Art Museum, 1220 Beall Avenue, Wooster; 330/263-2495; www.wooster.edu/art/artmuseum.html.