

## Vail Series Brings Diverse Art to Denison

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This weekend, Denison will welcome two contrasting artistic talents to campus.

Photographer Stephen Chalmers will make his Denison debut with his photography exhibition, "En Memoria: Roadside Memorials and Public Grieving in America," opening Saturday (Nov. 8) from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on 121 East Broadway.

The exhibit will be displayed at this temporary location until renovations are completed at the Burke Hall Art Gallery.

Hosted by Assistant Art Professor Alexander Mouton, the exhibition will be open daily from 1-4 p.m. through Dec. 14.

The Prague Chamber Orchestra will be performing at Denison for the first time along with the Eroica Trio at 8 p.m. Friday (Nov. 7) in Swasey Chapel.

Vail Concert Series Director Lorraine Wales is excited about the renowned musical groups performing together.

"The Trio's first Vail Series appearance was in 2002, and it's rare that we would invite them back so soon, but the truth is they drew raves from the audience and all I heard was 'Bring them back!'" Wales said.

"So, when I had a call from New York offering the Prague, one of the finest chamber orchestras in the world, with the Trio as guests, I couldn't resist."

The Eroica Trio consists of pianist Erika Nickrenz, violinist Adela Pena and Cellist Sara Sant'Ambrogio. In 1991 the Trio won the prestigious Naumberg Award, which resulted in a performance at Lincoln Center and extensive international touring.

Junior Geoff Young was satisfied by the Eroica Trio's concert performance last year. "It was masterful execution," Young said. "Their performance was phenomenal and their choice of music wonderful."

"It was very worth going to see, one of the best concerts I've gone to at Denison so far, as far as classical music is concerned."

With the release of their five recordings for Angel/EMI Classic Records, they have also captured several Grammy nominations.

The Trio's sixth EMI recording, which releases this month, features The Trio performing the Beethoven Triple Concerto with the Prague Chamber Orchestra.

Mouton is equally enthused about Chalmers's exhibit, which will feature images of roadside memorials varying from simplistic to intricate.

He said the Albumen photo process Chalmers used to create his photographs for the exhibit is what makes it especially unique.

"The Albumen Photo Process involves mixing a light sensitive emulsion with an albumen base, such as egg whites," Mouton said.

"This is then coated on paper so it becomes light sensitive and sheer and shiny. When the light is shown on it with a photographic negative on top, it produces a particularly sharp photographic image."

Chalmers will also present a lecture at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday (Nov. 6) in the Cleveland Hall Annex, as well as Albumen Photo workshops for Denison students interested in learning about the process.

"I think it's fascinating because it introduces people to the most common photographic process used in the 19th century," Mouton said.

With a repertoire ranging from baroque to the 20th century, the Prague Chamber Orchestra is an ensemble of 36 musicians without a conductor, relying solely on their abilities to weave together their individual talents.

The group has traveled extensively in the United States as well as internationally.

Mouton and Chalmers share alumni status as graduates of the competitive American Photography Institute National Graduate Seminar of the New York University Tisch School for the Arts.

Each year, the Institute selects 10 graduate students from across the country to participate in the program.

"It's like a boot camp for talented photographers," Mouton said. "It's a very prestigious program that helps artists and photographers across the states make connections with one another."

Eventually, Mouton came to know Chalmers through his work, and was chiefly responsible for bringing him to Denison.

Chalmers' awards include first place in the 1999 People's Choice Art Exhibition at the Faner Art Museum in Carbondale, Ill. and at the 1999 International Photo Imaging and Education Association Competition, as well as Best of Show at the Associated Artist Gallery in Carbondale in 1998.

He is Assistant Professor of Photography and Digital Imaging at Central Washington University.

Both events are free for Denison students. For the concert, tickets cost \$15 for the general public. Call the Vail Hotline at (740) 587-6557 for more information.

Wales hopes everyone at Denison will take advantage of the Vail Series concert.

"In a few years, when you find yourself traveling miles, fighting traffic, and paying seventy- five dollars a ticket to attend this kind of event, you will look back and understand why I hope you will take advantage," she said.

"Each time I hold the hope that someone will carry away something unforgettable from the experience."

For more information, contact: [denisonian@denison.edu](mailto:denisonian@denison.edu)

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