Greetings,

The Tweed Museum of Art is proud to announce an upcoming exhibition titled Robert Minichiello: Spontaneous Acts, a New York artist who is best known for large paintings of psychological interiors envisioned as short stories painted on unstretched unprimed canvas. In this exhibition, sixteen canvases will be on display with such titles as Bird In Tunisia, I Put a Spell on You, and Melancholy Pantomime, among others.

Each painting reveals a curious aspect of the imagination of the artist with a mix of irony, pathos, and amazement. On further inspection, the viewer will discover familiar objects and figurative relationships that challenge a sense of reality, thereby leading the viewer to consider the nature of daydreams, fears, and absurd thoughts about relationships that can’t be real but feel that they can be. The depictions from life that appear in the work suggest a world without gravity and an interior world populated with familiar household objects and ghostly figures, similar to the memory of an incident of the past that stretches, fades, and transforms with time. Minichiello’s intention is to share an act of imagination revealed through the very process of painting itself, in which the form and color of the work develop in response to the coincident events that take place in the mind simultaneously, with the body memory of the hand, underlined by a fully assimilated knowledge of a history of painting.

In this press kit, you will find information about the exhibition, including a schedule of events, a biography, selected images from the exhibition and a catalog synopsis for publicity use.

We are very excited to bring this unique art exhibition to the Duluth area. Please feel free to call if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Ken Bloom, Director
Robert Minichiello: Spontaneous Acts
Paintings by Robert Minichiello

WHERE: Tweed Museum of Art, University of Minnesota Duluth

Duluth, MN - The Tweed Museum of Art (TMA) at the University of Minnesota Duluth will feature a new exhibition of paintings by New York artist Robert Minichiello entitled Spontaneous Acts. This solo exhibition brings together artwork made over a prolific period of five years for display October 22 – December 31, 2015.

Each painting reveals a curious aspect of the imagination of the artist with a mix of irony, pathos, and amazement. On further inspection, the viewer will discover familiar objects and figurative relationships that challenge a sense of reality, thereby leading the viewer to consider the nature of daydreams, fears, and absurdist thoughts about relationships that can’t be real but feel that they can be. Minichiello intends to share an act of imagination that is revealed through the very process of painting itself, in which the form and color of the work develop in response to the coincident events that take place in the mind, simultaneously with the body memory of the hand.

Minichiello’s work from 2010 on seems to include stories, reminiscent of the late work of Philip Guston, which also came after a long period of working through the various formal and material possibilities of paint. But you don’t need to know the stories to know them as stories and to read into their worlds. – Anne Klefstad

Minichiello has an innate aptitude for fearless painting and for knowing when to stop his brush. Once that moment has arrived, he swiftly rolls up the canvas and stores it away, concluding whatever conversation he had with the work. – Sabine Russ

Spontaneous Acts is the first exhibition by the artist at the Tweed Museum of Art.

A publication with reproductions of the exhibition artworks and essays written by Sabine Russ, Managing Editor of the New York-based BOMB Magazine, and artist writer critic Ann Klefstad will be available during the course of the exhibition.

As part of the public programming accompanying the Spontaneous Acts exhibition, artist essayist Ann Klefstad will be conducting a gallery talk on Tuesday, November 10, 2015 from 6 to 7:30pm at Tweed.

For more information, contact Christine Strom at cstrom@d.umn.edu.
All events are free and open to the public.

About the Museum:
Website: www.d.umn.edu/tma
The 8 O'Clock Departure, Fall 2011
Acrylic on unprimed canvas
ROBERT MINICHIELLO

Bath, England, Spring 2014
Acrylic on unprimed canvas
Robert Minichiello

Bird in Tunisia, Spring 2014
Acrylic on unprimed canvas
Orange Crush, Winter 2012
Acrylic on unprimed canvas
EXHIBITION CATALOG

Robert Minichiello: Spontaneous Acts

The Tweed Museum of Art proudly announces the publication of a full-color catalog, featuring a 32-page book that includes 21 plates that reproduce the 17 exhibited artworks plus 4 images of earlier developmental works.

Contributors to the publication include essays by essayists Sabine Russ, Managing Editor of BOMB Magazine, Brooklyn, NY, and writer critic Ann Klefstad of Duluth, with an introduction by Tweed Museum of Art director Ken Bloom.

This publication is being released in conjunction with an exhibition of paintings at the Tweed Museum of Art, University of Minnesota Duluth, which will be on display from October 20 through December 31, 2015. The book will be sold through the Tweed Museum Gift Shop and copies will be available at the opening reception on October 22, 2015.

BIOGRAPHY - ROBERT MINICHIELLO

Robert Minichiello was born in 1951 and grew up in a large family in a then-almost rural setting in Nyack, New York: a big house on two acres of land, where the nine children were encouraged by their art-loving parents to roam and explore. He took painting classes from Ken Nishi at the Rockland Center for the Arts and eventually attended the School of Visual Arts in New York. He soon left formal training, however, as he found it too restrictive. Over many years of exploration of the medium, he came to inhabit painting as a way of life. In his youth he worked in New York; eventually he returned to his place of origin and continues to work there.
ESSAYISTS FOR ROBERT MINICHIIELLO CATALOG

SABINE RUSS

Sabine Russ writes about visual and performing arts. She is managing editor of BOMB Magazine in Brooklyn, NY.

ANN KLEFSTAD

Ann Klefstad was born in 1956 in Greenbush, Minnesota and lived for 17 years in this isolated small town in rural northwest Minnesota, in a house filled with books and a number of very distinct individuals. She attended St. Olaf College’s Paracollege in the 1970s, graduating with majors in fine arts (sculpture), philosophy (esthetics of metaphor), and English (with honors). She worked at factory jobs; in a car wash, a restaurant, a bakery; at a magazine, a literary press, and a newspaper. There were sporadic bouts of graduate school. She has been a freelance writer and working sculptor for many years. The necessity of prioritizing the natural world, the lifeworld, over strictly human priorities has been the organizing principle of her life.