#### **OPERATIVES UNDER EVERY ROCK**

Conspiracies abound in Ellrov's new novel

➤ PAGE 3E





Arts 4-8	-
Books	E
Travel 9-10	
Human Condition 2	



Photos provided by the Louisiana Art & Science Museum Glass artist Josh Simpson's megaplanets are among works by eight artists that are featured in the Louisiana Art & Science Museum's exhibit Starry Messenger: Galileo's Vision in 21st Century Art. The exhibit opens Saturday, Sept. 26, and commemorates the International Year of Astronomy.

# Starry Messenger

# LASM art exhibit celebrates Galileo's vision

Starry Messenger: Galileo's Vision in 21st Century Art writer
The moon hides behind the clouds on this sunny morning, clouds that gather in preparation to live up to weather forecasters' prediction of a 50 percent in the propers. WHAT: An art exhibit celebrating the International Year of Astronomy. WHAT: An art exhibit celebrating the International Year of Astronomy. When the exhibit opens Saturday, Sept. 26. The show will run through Dec. 13. Hours are the strong of the propers of the century at the gaining Saturday, Sept. 26. The show will run through Dec. 13. Hours are the strong of Calleo's Vision in 21st Century at the gaining Saturday, Sept. 26. The show will run through Dec. 13. Hours are the strong of Calleo's Vision in 21st Century at the gaining Saturday, Sept. 26. The show will run through Dec. 13. Hours are the strong of Calleo's Vision in 21st Century at the gaining Saturday, Sept. 26. The show will run through Dec. 21st Hours are the strong of Calleo's Vision in 21st Century at the gain in 21st Century at the gain in 21st Century at the canned of Calleo's Vision in 21st Century at the canned of Calleo's Vision in 21st Century at the canned of Calleo's Vision in 21st Century at the canned of Calleo's Vision in 21st Century at the canned of Calleo's Vision in 21st Century at the canned of Calleo's Vision in 21st Century at the canned of Calleo's Vision in 21st Century at the canned of Calleo's Vision in 21st Century at the canned of Calleo's Vision in 21st Century at the canned of Calleo's Vision in 21st Century at the canned of Calleo's Vision in 21st Century at the canned of Calleo's Vision in 21st Century at the canned of Calleo's Vision in 21st Century at the canned of Calleo's Vision in 21st Century at the canned of Calleo's Vision in 21st Century at the canned of Calleo's Vision in 21st Century at the Calleo's Vision in 21st Century at Visi



## THE INSIDE STORY

#### Celebrating the republic

A Sept. 27 event in St. Francisville will open year-long celebration of the short-lived Republic of West Florida, which followed the West Florida Rebellion. The republic included eight parishes, among them East Baton Rouge. See more, page 5E.



A section of a painting by David Norwood depicts the West Florida Rebellion.

> SEE OUR LIST OF MORE EVENTS ON PAGE 4E

## **BOOK EVENTS**

# WordShops kick off Louisiana Book Festival

The 2009 Louisiana Book Festival

milkick off Friday, Oct. 16, with a series of WordShops at the State Lisries of WordShops at the State Lisdurange of WordShops and Capitol Park Welcome
Center in downtrown Baton Rouge.
Registration fees are \$75 for full daysessions.

Full day session runs from 9 a.m. to
4 p.m.: "Writing in Color: Making
Writing Come to Liffe; Rick Bragg,
faculty
Morning sessions run 9 a.m. to noon
and include: "The Illustrating a Children's
Writing Color to Liffe; Rick Bragg,
faculty
Writing Poten to Liffe; Rick Bragg,
faculty
Writing Color: Making
Writing Color to Liffe; Rick Bragg,
faculty
Writing Color: Making
Writing Color to Liffe; Rick Bragg,
faculty
Writing Poten to Liffe; Rick Bragg,
faculty
Writing Poten to Liffe; Rick Bragg,
faculty
Writing Poten to Liffe; Rick Bragg,
fil LCan, You Can: Was Stories from
Writing Poten to Road to a First Novel," Sonny Brewer, faculty: and
Writing Poten to Road to a First Novel," Sonny Brewer, faculty: and
Writing Poten to Road to a First Novel," Sonny Brewer, faculty: and
Writing Poten to Road to a First Novel," Sonny Brewer, faculty: and
Writing Poten to Road to a First Novel," Group of Writing Poten Spanner of Memory and Place," Jeanie Thompson,
faculty.

Afternoon sessions run 1 p.m. to 4
p.m. and include: "Freelance JournalState Bragge State Writers

LSU's Readers & Writers 2009-10

Louisiana Book Festival or
for more information: Contact
Writing Poten Broad to a First Novel, "Sonny Brewer, faculty: and
for more information.

Readers & Writers

LSU's Readers & Writers 2009-10

Louisiana Book Festival or
for more information.

Readers & Writers 2009-10

Louisiana Book Festival or
for more information or
for more information.

Por more information or
for more information.

Por more information.

Readers & Writers 2009-10

Louisiana Book Fe

### MESSENGER

ntinued from page 1E

Carol Prusa's lighted hemi-

Carol Prusa's lighted hemi-spheres.
Weinstein peeks into the Soupcon Gallery, It's the small-est of the museum's exhibitions rooms, which is perfect for the pieces to be placed here.
"See?" Weinstein said.
She points to two sample shades of purple painted on the wall. One of the shades has been chosen for the exhibit.
"And we'll be painting the room purple and darkening it for the pieces we'll have in here," Weinstein said. "But it won't be so dark that visitors won't be able to see where they're walking."

won't be so dark that visitors won't be able to see where they're walking."
Still, enough light will be absent to allow the installations to glow, to shine, to sparkle.
For these represent the starry messengers of Gailleo's day, the bodies in the sky that were thought to be celestial, heavenly.
"And beause they were in "And beause they were in which were thought to be perfect," Weinstein said." Their surfaces were thought to be smooth, whereas here on Earth, the surface isn't smooth, because we're imperfect."
Meantime, the Roman Catholic Church declared Earth as the center of the universe. And when Gailleo backed the Copernican heliocentric model with his own documentation, the church reprimanded him. Still, Gailleo revolutionized its place in the cosmos. Even today there's much to be learned from his writings and drawings.
Especially his drawings, for these were the equivalent of the sight all mages. Think as in the 1600s, yet images had

these were the equivalent of today's digital images. Think shows it.

There were no film cameras in the 1600s, yet images had to be recorded. Meaning scientists many had to be.

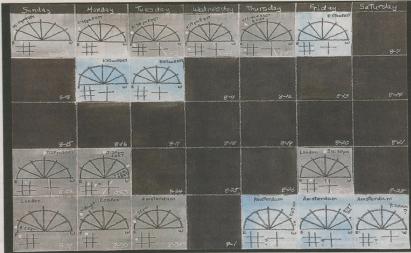
"And there were no lines drawn between art and science and math as there are now," Weinstein said. "Look at Leonardo da Vinci. He was an artist, a scientist — he was so many things."

Galileo was born Feb. 15, 1564, in Florence, Italy. His full name was Galileo il. He originally set out to become not a scientist but a paint and the science and the father of modern physics, the father of modern physics, the father of science and the father of modern science. "But before his death, he

tather of science and the latther of modern science.

said he wished he'd been a
painter," Weinstein said.

She laughs. Perhaps painting
would have been easier, but
then again, who knows? Paintings of the day focused on
religious subjects. Gailleo was
catholic, but would he have
strayed from the art subjects
of the day?
Well, he apparently did.
"It's interesting for us to look
at Gailleo as an artist," Weinstein said. "Again, there were
no divisions between art and
science, and Gailleo used art
science, and Gailleo the art
he saw through the telescope."
For instance, his use of
secondary light definitely is
art terminology describing
incidental light reflected on a
three-dimensional object. And
the objects he was describing
were the mountainous and crater-filled surface of the moon.
"It led him to debunk Aristotelian cosmology, which
held that heavenly bodies, unlike Earth, must be perfectly
smooth spheres," Weinstein
said. "Gailleo's sketches were
more persuasive in an age
when people trusted images
more than words."
All of which combine to
reflect the Louisiana Art & Science
more persuasive in an age
when people trusted image
when people trusted image
more than words."
All of which combine to
reflect the Louisiana Art & Science
more persuasive in an age
when people trusted image
more than words."
All of which combine to
reflect the consistent
in their studies of the heavfrom what we usually show,"
Weinstein said. "We are an
art and science museum, and
we're looking for more exhibitis to go with our mission."
And this one is perfect, for all
of the artists chosen to show in
Starry Messenger are consistent in their studies of the heavexactly household names.
"The most noted artist in
this exhibit is Vija Celmins,"



vided by the Louisiana Art & Science Museum

For 15 years, artist Sallie Wolf has documented the moon's movements on a daily basis in her Moon Project. The result is 154 moon charts of graphite, china marker and ink on paper. Her project is ongoing.





Elen A. Feinberg used oil paint to create her Sightline III on birch plywood. The piece is one of several of her planet-like works in the show.

Jonathan Feldschuh's Nebula M1-67 was painted with acryling on canvas over panel. All of the artists featured in Starry Mesworks in the show.



Eva Lee's Jewel, a two-channel digital video installation, will rotate in the Soupcon Gallery. The show will include three digital animation installations by Lee, one of which will include viewers in its rotation at the exhibit's entrance.

Weinstein said. "She was born in Latvia."

In Latvia."

Celmins now divides her Celmins now divides her Califort ween New York and Califort ween New York and Califort was a series intensely realistic images of star-studded nighttime skies, ocean waves and desert floors. "Her palette is very limited, and she draws with graphite," Wienstein said

Then there are the previously mentioned Eva Lee and Carol Prusa.

Then there are the previously mentioned Eva Lee and Carol Prusa.

Lee lives and works in Ridgefield, Conn., and works in digital media. The exhibit middle media and the state of the state

spheres are what Prusa calls her half globes or planets. They protrude from the wall and are illuminated with fiber optic lighting.
Prusa lives in Boca Raton, Fla., and is a professor of art at Florida Atlantic University.
Cated guesses about a 'dark' energy, I. too, contemplate the fate of the universe and my own uncertainty and discontinuity," she wrote in her statement, which will appear on the label card for her work in the exhibit. "All of the artists will have labels, and we'll have information on Gallieo, as well," Weinstein said.
And when reading this in-

And when reading this in-And when reading this in-formation, puzzle pieces come together. Artists and scientists actually do have a lot in com-mon in today's world, and they don't really differ from those in Galileo's.

in Galleo's.
Take New York artist Jonathan Feldschuh. He graduated summa cum laude from Harvard University with a degree in physics, yet he had an inter-

est in art, which led him to study painting at the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague. For more than a decade, Feldschuh has used scientificinages as a starting point for his work, composing planetary landscapes in swirling, dense layers of paint. His latest work is inspired by the Large Hadron Collider, the world's most powerful particle accelerators, spont, who was born in France but also resides in New York. He is an architect, designer and artist and was inspired to create his own interpretations of celestial phenomena after discovering that the Hubble Observatory's photographs actually are elaborate composites.

Now, Despont's resume is as impressive as his paintings. He's worked with Bill Gates, designed the interiors of the Angeles and was an associate architect for the centennial restoration of the Statue of Liberty. Another of the show's painters, Elen A. Feinberg, lives in

Albuquerque, N.M. Her work is inspired by the Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., the Severe Storms Laboratory in Norman, Okla, and NASA. Then comes what probably will be noted as the prettiest part of the exhibition. Now this isn't taking work, but viewers seem always to be fascinated by glasswork and light. And Josh Simpson's work definitely fits this bill. He lives and works in Sheburne, Masa and Walley and the sactually married by glasswork and light. And Josh Simpson's work in Sheburne, Masa different and the sactually married works in Sheburne, Masa different works in Sheburne, Masa different works in Sheburne, Masa Josh Sheb

and she took one of his glass planets with her on a 1995
She now stands in the museum's storage room. It's filled with crates, some containing purses from the museum's last exhibit The Purse and The Person: A Century of Women's Purses.

"They're ready to be shipped out," Weinstein said.
Then there are the crates on the opposite side of the room. Some are open, some not. The one by which Weinstein stands definitely is open she simpson special—no of three 100-pound planets created for a 2005 commission by the Corning, N.Y. The Corning Museum of Glass in Corning, N.Y. The Corning Museum chose one of the three, which became known as the world's largest paperweight at 107 pounds.

Public Broadcasting System produced the documentary Defying Gravity about Simpson's process in creating these pines.

Look closely at this piece

Look closely at this piece. There are so many dimensions depicted by shape and color. "Some of his pieces are blown glass, some are molded glass," Weinstein said. "He creates spheres that he calls megaplan-ets, complete with landscapes, underwater scenes and vistas. Simpson's 100-pound planet will be joined by smaller pieces, some depicting Saturn and even one shaped to be a meteorite.

And concluding the show will be Wolf's Moon Project in

## Exhibit will be open for LASM gala

Though Starry Messenger:
Galileo's Vision in 21st Century Art officially opens on
Saturday, Sept. 26, it will be
open for the Louisiana Art &
Science Museum's 24th annual
gala, Swing Upon a Start, 7:3010 pm. Friday, Sept. 25.
There will be food and beverages, and Ned Fasullo and
his orchestra will entertain
throughout the evening.
Tickets are \$100 for museum
members and \$150 for nonmembers.

members and \$4.50 for monmembers.

The museum also is hosting several other events in conjunction with the exhibit.

A panel discussion, Celestial Matters: A Talk With the Artists of Starry Messenger, will take place 5-8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 22, in the Irene W. Pennington Planetarium. The panel will be made up of the exhibit's eight artists whose images will be projected in the planetarium dome, and audience members will be able to gaze upon the stars while listening.

Then, at 8 p.m. Friday, Oct.

the graze on the stars while insteading. Then, at 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 23, the museum will host Galilean Nights, where visitors will gaze through telescopes on the Riverfront Landing between the museum and the U.S. Kidd. This event is free.

The museum also will host award-winning novelist Dava Sobel, who will speak on her best selling novel Gailleo's Daughter, at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 1. The novel revisits the life of the great Italian scientist through the eyes of his daughter.

Professor Eileen Reeves will speak about Galileo and how his discoveries inspired artists of the 17th cutury at 2 p.m. Sobot talks are free.

For gala tickets, call (225) 344-5272, extension 151 or e-mail kallen@lasm.org.

For more information, visit http://www.lasm.org.

the Colonnade Gallery. Wolf will be returning to the museum for a panel discussion alongside her fellow exhibitors on Oct. 22. But she's the only artist here on this day, having traveled from her Oak Park, Ill., home to hang her show. And to look at the moon. "I was inspired by the moon while I was walking one day," she said. "It was morning, and the moon was out, and I thought the moon only rose at night. But Wolf was out was out, and I thought the moon only rose at night. But Wolf was founding for something to coax her outside on a daily basis. Why not track the moon.

thing to coax her outside on a daily basis. Why not track the moon?

It gave her a reason to look at the skies, to better understand science and math. She has a degree in anthropology, but science and math aren't really her strengths. That is, at least, before she started applying her artistic abilities in documenting the moon.

Results are painted onto a daily calendar. Some days not. The latter are marked by a simple darkening of the started applying the sample darkening of the started applying the sample darkening of the sample darkening from hell," she said, pointing to one of her calendars. "That was when my husband was coaching little league baseball, and the sky was always gray."

What about this calendar, which has been totally blacked out, save for a day or two.

"That was when we had a fire in our house," Wolf said. "At home, I could walk out in my pajamas and look at the moon, but we were staying in a hotel, and I couldn't do that at a hotel."

So, there is an accounting for every day of every month. And Wolf doesn't need written

So, there is an accounting for every day of every month. And Wolf doesn't need written words to remember what happened when.
Sort of like the people in Gailleo's time. Remember how they trusted images more than words? And Gailleo gave them images, shaded, detailed watercolors and drawings of the moon and the Milky Way and the planets.

All produced in much the same way Wolf is creating l

artwork.
Which brings this show full circle.