

Allen Downs: Life and Work

Winter Quarter in Mexico

allendowns.org



Something Wonderful is Happening Soon & YOU Can Help!

Saludos friends, colleagues, relatives & former students of Allen Downs,

I am contacting you at this busy time of year because you have expressed a sincere interest in the Allen Downs Project. For the entire month of March 2013, we have organized a series of wonderful and spirited events to celebrate the life and work of Allen Downs. Allen, both an artist and a professor, founded the Winter Quarter in Mexico program, which gave students the profound opportunity to live and work in Tlaxiaco, Oaxaca, Mexico. For more than a decade of winters beginning in 1972 and running through 1982, over 250 students participated in this program.

I was privileged to be in the inaugural group in 1972. The residents of Tlaxiaco warmly welcomed us, and we each studied a mix of ceramics, weaving, metal, painting, photography and Spanish with local artisans and adjunct instructors from the University of Minnesota. The classes continued for many years, and the friendships that were formed are still thriving because we were an integral part of that memorable experience.

The March 2013 Allen Downs Project events include:

- An exhibition of Allen's films, paintings and photographs
- An exhibition of an aesthetic range of work by 24 students who participated in the program
- A concert presented by Allen's daughter, Lila Downs
- A reunion of the students and instructors who traveled to Tlaxiaco

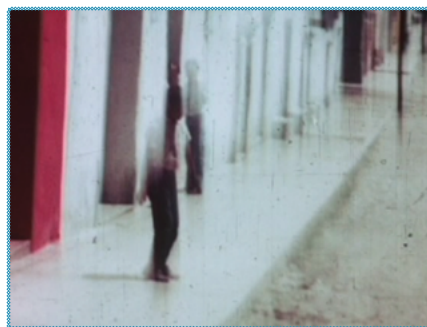


Painting by Allen Downs

Throughout four decades, Professor Downs brought his love for photography and film alive in award-winning films, including *The Flight of the Teal* in 1962. His film *Swamp* was awarded the Gold Medallion, Screen Producers and Look Magazine College Competition. This film and 5 others were screened at Walker Art Center in March 1957. Allen was a faculty member of the Department of Art at the University of Minnesota from 1950 through 1977, and served as Chair in 1971 and 1972. He divided his time in his later years between Minnesota and Mexico and passed away on November 8, 1983 in Oaxaca.

In recognition of the extraordinary impact of Allen Downs' work, in 2011 the U of M, through the initiative of alumnae David Madson ('79) and Lila Downs ('92), established the Allen Downs Photography and Moving Image Fellowship in his name to support graduate art students majoring in photography or film. More information on this fellowship is available at:

<http://uofmartdepartment.files.wordpress.com/2010/12/allendownsfellowship.pdf>



Film Still by Allen Downs



Photograph by Allen Downs

Sponsorship Allen Downs Life and Work: Winter Quarter in Mexico was organized by the Katherine E. Nash Gallery and curated by Linda Passon-McNally and Matt Bakkom. The exhibition and related events are presented in collaboration with the Consulado de Mexico. This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund. Additional assistance provided by KFAI Radio and The Walker Art Center.

Schedule of Events March 5 - 30, 2013

Allen Downs: Life and Work Winter Quarter in Mexico Visit allendowns.org for all event information

Sunday, March 10, 2013

Concert & Exhibit Opening

Lila Downs *A Song for My Father / Una Canción para Mi Padre*

4 pm Ted Mann Concert Hall at The University of Minnesota, 2128 Fourth Street South, Minneapolis 55455

World-renowned and Latin Grammy winning singer Lila Downs, liladowns.com

For tickets: z.umn.edu/lila2013, allendowns.org or call 612-624-2345

Proceeds from the concert will benefit the Allen Downs Moving Image Fellowship



Exhibit Opening Free and Open to the Public

6 - 9 pm Katherine E. Nash Gallery inside the Regis Center for Art, 405 21st Avenue South, Minneapolis 55455

This group exhibition celebrates the career of artist and filmmaker Allen Downs and the Winter Quarter in Mexico Program he led at the U of M.

Artists in the Exhibition Allen Downs, Leah Anton, Cindy Berlovitz, Chris Cardozo, Jim Crawford, Bonnie Cutts, Paul Dresang, Lynn Gray, Jodi Hohman, Barbara Kvasnik-Nunez, Barb Levie, Joy Liberman, Eve MacLeish, Tony Mayo, Bernie McNally, Paul Mirocha, David Nelson, Richard Nelson, Linda Passon-McNally, Rebecca Pavlenko, Randi Rood, Mark Stanley, Mona Toft, Jean Vong and Phil Waters

March 28, 2013

Free and Open to the Public

Panel Discussion The life, work and influence of Allen Downs

6 pm In-Flux Space inside the Regis Center for Art

Moderated by Rob Silberman, Professor of Film History

Panelists Joan Strommer, Gary Hallman and Linda Passon-McNally

Donation Request

As you well know, many costs are incurred when organizing a project of this scope which will reach a broad and diverse audience including artists and educators, friends and family of Allen Downs, former Winter Quarter in Mexico students, the general public, and a special outreach to the Twin Cities Latino community. The Nash Gallery and Department of Art are supporting the exhibition installation, but there are other areas of the Allen Downs Project where additional funding is needed, namely:

- Transferring Allen's 16mm films to DVD
- Creating high quality photos from 2-1/4" slides
- Producing a high quality exhibit catalog
- Producing an opening night party
- Promoting the exhibit and Lila Downs' concert
- Maintaining our website: allendowns.org

PLEASE HELP WITH A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION.

Any amount is welcome and no gift is too small. Donating is easy!

TO DONATE ONLINE, PLEASE VISIT: <https://art.umn.edu/give>

Make sure to designate the following program option: UMF Fund #8945 Nash Gallery Exhibitions and Events

TO MAIL YOUR DONATION, PLEASE MAKE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO:

UMF Fund #8945 Nash Gallery Exhibitions and Events

University of Minnesota Foundation, CM 3854, PO Box 70870, St. Paul, MN 55170-3854

Please Contribute by February 1, 2013

As a friend and supporter of the arts, please partner with me to fulfill a dream and help make this a wonderful celebration of art and friendship. Whether or not you can financially support the Allen Downs Project, I invite you to join us for the concert and related events celebrating the legacy of Allen Downs. Let's warm up the frigid Minnesota winter with the energy and spirit of Mexico through art, music, memories and a grand fiesta on March 10, 2013.

Muchas Gracias, *Linda Passon-McNally* Linda Passon-McNally, Curator lindapassonmcnally31@gmail.com



Linda, Tlaxiaco 1972