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## Buckminster Fuller Photographs On View

### Today's News

August 5, 2005

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New Appointments Announced at Tate

**MONTCLAIR, NJ.**-(PRWEB) Inspired by Buckminster Fuller throughout his life, artist, environmental activist and designer/programmer, Rupert Ravens has loaned his collection of photographs, invention drawings, books and memorabilia to help create the Buckminster Fuller retrospective being held in Asheville, NC – home of experimental Black Mountain College where Fuller once taught.

Like Fuller, the 20th century visionary who first told us to “think global, act local” and who coined the phrase “spaceship earth,” Ravens participates in numerous wildly unrelated fields ranging from his successful spearheading of an early '90s Monmouth County fight to prevent a \$400 million dollar trash incinerator, to his 1997 creation of the 15,000-square-foot Christopher Columbus Drive mural in Jersey City celebrating regional Americana such as the Statue of Liberty (for which NJ Monthly named him one of the state's 50 most interesting people that year).

A current long-range project is his book-in-progress discussing how to design within the constraints of space and time. As Ravens talks about his book, “The Speed and Space of Design and other Visual Metaphors,” one understands more clearly why he is so drawn to the creator of the Geodesic Dome and the Dymaxion Car (a tear shaped invention that could hold 11 people and turn on its own radius).

In addition to his artistic, academic and theoretical pursuits, Ravens is an enthusiastic entrant and supporter of competitions and exhibitions such as the recent Flight 93 National Memorial competition. An ambitious painter maintaining a studio in Bloomfield, he has been asked by the Newark Arts Council to act as Coordinator for the 2005 Newark Open Doors Studio Tour taking place October 13 – 16 ([www.newark-opendoors.org](http://www.newark-opendoors.org)). Given this temperament, it was only natural that he became excited when he learned from Montclair visual artist, Deirdre Newman, “Bucky's” grand niece (Fuller's preferred nickname was Bucky) that the Black Mountain College Museum + Art Center in Asheville, NC, was planning an exhibition for their visionary hero, Buckminster Fuller, and that they were seeking work to include in the show. (For more information on the exhibition see: <http://www.blackmountaincollege.org>).

It's a well know fact, says Mr. Ravens, that Black Mountain College was a hotbed of creativity for a brief but unforgettable few years, with luminaries such as artist Robert Rauchenberg; composer, John Cage; choreographer, Merce Cunningham; colorist/artist, Josef Albers and his wife Anni; and sculptor, Kenneth Snelson, all participating either as students, or teachers and working artists in the late 40s and early 50s. Buckminster Fuller was a teacher in that amazing setting, he said.

“Growing up, whenever I thought of the future it was always peopled by

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Buckminster Fuller's ideas and inventions," Ravens noted. "It was really about how he envisioned the universe. His vision was the future: his geodesic dome and his dymaxion car are examples. He thought about, wrote about, and demonstrated the outlines and structure of what we are only now coming to think of as a sustainable way of life. "

As an artist, lecturer, writer and new media visionary, Ravens continues to be inspired and preoccupied with the questions which preoccupied Fuller: What is it that we're here for? Why do we have intelligence, and other creatures don't? What can I do as an ordinary individual that can inspire and help humanity and mankind achieve its ultimate goal? How can we sustain life within the limited resources we have on spaceship earth as we come to grips with what Fuller realized on a Navy ship out in the ocean over 50 years ago – 'what we've got is what we've got. There isn't any more.'

Rupert Ravens spoke about Buckminster Fuller's lifetime experiment at the opening reception of the exhibition. He will be a guest lecturer at the 9th Internet Marketing Conference, this year to be held in Stockholm, Sweden, September 13 - 15, 2005, on the topic of speed, time and the power of metaphors when designing.  
[<http://www.internetmarketingconference.com>]

Rupert Ravens founded Nices Inc. ([www.nices.com](http://www.nices.com)) in 1997 a design and Online application development company that creates and builds strategic/technical and creative solutions for communication and e-commerce websites.

R. Buckminster Fuller (1895-1983) was one of the most inventive, influential, and inspiring figures of the 20th century. Through his ideas and inventions, his teaching and lecturing around the globe, he influenced current thought in a wide variety of fields, including commercial and industrial design, mathematics, the sciences, the arts and architecture.

His basic approach was to apply both scientific knowledge and creativity to think "outside the box" when attempting to solve practical problems. Bucky's foremost concern was to find ways to "do more with less" and to use resources most efficiently to serve humanity. He invented the term "Spaceship Earth" to encourage people to see the entire world as one interdependent system.

During his life and career, Fuller was awarded 25 U.S. patents, wrote 28 books, received 47 honorary doctorate degrees, circled the Earth 57 times consulting and lecturing, and received dozens of major architectural and design awards along with the prestigious Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in America. Buckminster Fuller taught at Black Mountain College in the summers of 1948 and 1949, and he served as the Director of the BMC Summer Institute in 1949.

The exhibition "Ideas+Inventions: Buckminster Fuller and Black Mountain College" will include two-dimensional and three-dimensional works that present and explore Fuller's ideas. Also included in the show will be photographs taken of him and his students at Black Mountain College during the summers of 1948 and 1949, a Dymaxion map, and an autographed drawing of a geodesic dome. People can assemble models based on Fuller's inventions and fully experience his genius in a special hands-on area.

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