Contemporary Printmaking + Jason Urban: Wild Kingdom
CONTEMPORARY PRINTMAKING

+ JASON URBAN
Wild Kingdom

MANIFEST is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization
CONTEMPORARY PRINTMAKING

Curated by Jason Franz

December 12, 2008 - January 9, 2009

Andrew Au
Stephen Barnwell
Curtis Bartone
Dale Clifford
Stephen Cummings
Mary Farrell
Rick Finn
Craig Fisher
Jenny Freestone
Randy Garber
Karla Hackenmiller
Katherine Jones
Angela Katona-Batchelor
Like photography, printmaking is a genre of creative work that is underscored by its processes. Some artists are steadfast traditionalists, anchoring themselves in age-old technical methods. Others push the boundaries of the discipline, exploring just what constitutes ‘printmaking’. In this exhibit Manifest called to artists to submit works of contemporary printmaking in order to explore the range of methods and results currently being achieved within the bounds of such processes.

Printmaking is intimately linked to drawing, therefore an exhibit dedicated to this discipline serves to fulfill Manifest’s Drawing Center mission to promote, feature, and explore drawing as a rich and culturally significant art form. Inevitably mechanical, printmaking provides an intriguing bridge between the idiosyncratic personal artistic vision, and mass culture, via the multiplication process. We find here that in some cases the process is reflected in the content of the work, but often despite (or perhaps in purposeful contradiction to) the machine the subjects presented in this exhibit linger on the natural, human, and physiological. This was in no way the result of a curatorial preference for such imagery, but simply the revealing coincidence brought about by the theme of the call for entries.

Nearly 400 works were submitted by 160 artists for consideration by the Manifest jury. The final selection includes 22 works by 13 artists from seven states and the U.K.
Andrew Au (Cincinnati, OH)

*GLNnUD*, etching and silkscreen, 36” x 18”, 2008
Andrew Au (Cincinnati, OH)

_U747-IRp_, etching and silkscreen, 18” x 35”, 2008
Stephen Barnwell (New York, NY)
United States of Islam, digital print, 2.25" x 5.6" ea., 2008

United States of Islam
The United States of Islam
In Allah we trust
ONE DOLLAR

ONE DOLLAR

ONE DOLLAR

ONE DOLLAR
Stephen Barnwell (New York, NY)

*State of War*, digital print, 4” x 6.75” ea., 2008
Curtis Bartone (Savannah, GA)

Nocturne (Widow in Landscape), etching in Aquatint, 18” x 12”, 2008
Dale Clifford (Atlanta, GA)

*Roving Bandit*, linocut and woodcut, 18" x 12", 2007
Dale Clifford (Atlanta, GA)

*Shame of the Son*, linocut and woodcut, 18" x 12", 2008
Stephen Cummings (Seattle, WA)

*The Best Thing Ever*, lithograph, 14” x 6.5”, 2008
Stephen Cummings (Seattle, WA)

Three Nudes, lithograph, 11” x 14”, 2007
Mary Farrell (Spokane, WA)

*Limbs Akimbo*, etching, woodcut, linocut, 12” x 16”, 2006
Mary Farrell (Spokane, WA)

*Tarragon*, drypoint, 15.5" x 9.5", 2008
Mary Farrell (Spokane, WA)

*Split Open*, mezzotint and drypoint, 7” x 6.5”, 2008
Rick Finn (Cincinnati, OH)

*No Chance for a Sweet, Sweet Life*, reduction woodcut, 16" x 28", 2007
Rick Finn (Cincinnati, OH)

18,322 Days Ago, etching, 16” x 18”, 2008
Craig Fisher (Toledo, OH)

*Rights of Spring*, aquatint over inkjet chine colle, 30" x 22", 2008
Jenny Freestone (Takoma Park, MD)

*Vessel, Recycle*, drypoint, soft ground etching, 24” x 18”, 2008
Jenny Freestone (Takoma Park, MD)

Vessel II, 3rd State, direct gravure, roulette, 10” x 13”, 2008
Randy Garber (Newton Centre, MA)

*The Wonder of it All*, 3 plate etching, 30” x 28”, 2008
Karla Hackenmiller (Athens, OH)

*Liminal Deploy*, etching, 12" x 9", 2008
Katherine Jones (London, England)

*Jurassic Glass House*, etching and collagraph on paper, 17” x 23”, 2008
Angela Katona-Batchelor (Boise, ID)

*Curiosity*, hand-colored etching, waxed paper, vial, sinew, milkweed pod, 4” x 5” x 1”, 2008
JASON URBAN: WILD KINGDOM
Curated by Jason Franz

December 12, 2008 - January 9, 2009
Jason Urban states that his research has become an exploration of illusions. He works across many disciplines anchored in printmaking, but pushed to the limits of installation. Drawing inspiration from design (graphic, industrial, interior), motion pictures, and advertising he seeks to appeal to the mass conscience using a shared visual history. Works presented in Wild Kingdom include etching and silkscreen processes combined with painting.

My interest in design and its relationship to “fine art” has been expanding to include a domestic focus. Beyond singular images like posters or most prints, I’ve been working on ways to take advantage of the multiple nature of the printing process.

The work in Wild Kingdom is primarily an exploration of pattern and color relationships. Through stripes, modular units, and jigsaw puzzle-like shapes, I attempt to create engaging visual experiences. My goal is to generate playful and vibrant perceptual encounters with the illusion of movement and intense figure-ground relationships.

The shapes and forms are appropriated from various childhood printed matter- some old Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission posters and various Starwars action figure catalogues. While the origin of the imagery is rooted in nostalgia and kitsch, I try to combine that familiarity with an element of the fantastic.

- Jason Urban

Urban teaches drawing and printmaking at the University of Texas - Austin. He studied at Kutztown University (Pennsylvania) receiving his BFA in 1997 and at the University of Iowa, receiving his MA and MFA in 2001 and 2002.
opposite

*Rattlesnake Rec Room* (installation view)

*Rattlesnake Rec Room* (modular parts)
silkscreen on wood, 21” x 21” each, 2006
Rattlesnake Rec Room (modular parts)
silkscreen on wood, 21” x 21” each, 2006
Rattlesnake Rec Room (Preliminary)
etching with silkscreen, 22” x 30”, 2006
Flying Snake / Rainbow Boa
silkscreen, 30" x 22", 2007
Neapolitan Rattler
silkscreen, 22” x 30”, 2007
*Pennsylvania Wildlife (Purple)*

etching with gouache, 30" x 22", 2007
Pennsylvania Wildlife (Blue)
etching with gouache, 30” x 22”, 2007
Seventy-seven Figures (Blue)
etching with gouache, 30" x 22", 2008
Seventy-seven Figures (Multi-color)
etching with gouache, 30" x 22", 2008
About Manifest

Founded in May of 2004, Manifest Creative Research Gallery and Drawing Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit arts organization headquartered in the urban neighborhood of East Walnut Hills in Cincinnati, Ohio. The elegant street level exhibition space is minutes away from downtown Cincinnati, and the numerous academic institutions of higher learning in the region. It is also within easy walking distance of a diversely populated historic neighborhood with residents from all walks of life. The galleries are free and open to the public five hours a day, five days a week, presenting works by students and professionals from around the world. The Manifest Drawing Center Studio is located in the nearby Walnut Hills Essex Studios Complex.

Manifest is supported by grants and public donations and has the goal to support student professionalism, integrate the arts into the urban residential community and raise the bar on artistic standards. The mission also includes the exploration of the relationship between art and design, as well as the ongoing support and display of drawing in all its various forms.

Mission Statement:

Manifest enhances the role of art and design in society by cultivating and focusing the transformative power of creativity in the visual arts. Manifest benefits people in the global and local community, including professionals, students, and the public, by creating quality-centered experiences focused on contemporary visual arts and related activities in the context of creative exploration.
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