MYTHOGRAPHY + SELECTIONS | 4TH INTERNATIONAL DRAWING ANNUAL
MANIFEST VOLUME THIRTY-FOUR
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Manifest Creative Research Gallery and Drawing Center
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Mythography

March 6 - April 3, 2009

Jessica Grace Bechtel
Charles Caldemeyer
Bill Domonkos
Laura Fisher
David Hannon
Amanda Jaffe
Hugh Jones
Noriko Kuresumi
Robert McCann
Joseph Miller
Greg Sand
Christopher Troutman
Chris White
What role does story play in a society that seems increasingly defined by production, laws, budgets, and CNN sound bites? For some, story is the luxury of childhood; packed away with toy gun holsters and ballerina outfits when we head off into the “real-world” of adulthood. If story stays with us into maturity, it is often regulated to the realm of “escape” or hobby – something to enjoy or find interest in only once deadlines are met, clients are satisfied, dishes are washed and put away. Yet society still finds solace, maybe desperately so, in blockbuster films and TV series, allowing them to indulge their need for story.

Artists of different stripes have known that stories are vessels of meaning. Often fiction can be truer than the facts. The imaginative helps us to see more clearly. How many of us, when hearing a tale told well – whether through film, novel, or just a friend sharing a personal experience – have not felt the resonance of connection with that story? While we may not share the particulars of the tale, something corresponds with our experience – or calls us out from our experiences – and widens our view, deepens our understanding, and locates our sense of being.
Jessica Grace Bechtel (Cincinnati, OH)

*Ripening,* oil on wood box, 48” x 36” x 18”, 2007
Mythography: An Exploration of Narrative exhibits the work of 13 artists who still believe in the potency of story. While many of these works are elusive in meaning (as many good stories are), they take on new layers of meaning when displayed alongside each other (we might say, they resonate and deepen with each other). Some of the stories find their strength in archetypal narratives that have defined entire civilizations while others are more personal, memoir-ish, giving the viewer a glimpse into the private experience of the Other. Eve makes an appearance, though in various guises in the works of Jessica Grace Bechtel, Joseph Miller, and the sensuously delicate sculpture of Noriko Kuresumi. History has a chapter as well: fragmented, re-pieced, and manipulated together in the films of Bill Domonkos and the weathered book of photographs by Laura Fisher. Boats, descending stairwells and flying blimps invite us to take a journey, to explore, to travel to lands unknown.

In the wake of Modernism’s insistence that art need only refer to itself, the works in Mythography unashamedly take us somewhere else. Shirking Modernism’s academic dismissal of the narrative as merely illustrative, they operate as windows into other realities. Consequently, Mythography offers us another page in the various chapters being written after the story of Modernism, reminding us that while surface carries its own important content, so much art made today goes beyond a dogmatic attachment to the eminence of form.

People need stories. While Manifest is firmly committed to a broad range of artistic approaches, we are proud to offer this distinct contribution to the telling of tales by visual artists and further fulfill our mission of creating quality-centered experiences for the viewing public.
Charles Caldemeyer (Mansfield, OH)

*Creators and Destroyers*, encaustic, oil, watercolor, 38” x 38” x 2”, 2005
Bill Domonokos (Oakland, CA)

stills from: *The Ambient Medium, Nocturne*, and *Song for Sonnabend*, DVD film, 2007
Part One: Dreams, old book, silver gelatin prints, 10” x 8” x 1”, 2009

Laura Fisher (Cincinnati, OH)
David Hannon (Muncie, IN)

*Strange Gifts*, oil on panel, 49” x 84” x 3”, 2008
Amanda Jaffe (Las Cruces, NM)

**Leaf Pile in a Canoe**, porcelain, 3” x 12” x 10.5”, 2008
Hugh Jones (Arlington, VA)

The Nature of Photographs, photograph, 17” x 11”, 2009
Noriko Kuresumi (Astoria, NY)
*Sea Creature*, ceramics, 9” x 12.5” x 8”, 2008
Robert McCann (East Lansing, MI)

Specimens, oil on panel, 20” x 31”, 2006
Joseph Miller (Buffalo, NY)

*Search*, graphite, 21.5” x 20.5”, 2004
Joseph Miller (Buffalo, NY)

Flag. graphite, 22.25” x 21.5”, 2004
Greg Sand (Clarksville, TN)

*Snapshot: Sitting Portrait*, digital photograph, 3.25” x 5.25”, 2008
Christopher Troutman (Richmond, KY)

*Mischief*, charcoal on paper, 60” x 52.5”, 2008
Chris White (Bellevue, WA)

**Grandma & Grandpa**, oil on canvas, 25” x 30”, 2008
Selections | 4th International Drawing Annual

March 6 - April 3, 2009

Susan D'Amato
Christina Empedocles
Gregory Euclide
Jason John
Charles Kanwischer
Paul Loehle
Douglas Miller
Ross Racine
Selections from the International Drawing Annual is the fourth annual presentation of this exhibit, featuring a sampling of artworks to be included in the forthcoming 2008 International Drawing Annual exhibit-in-print publication.

The International Drawing Annual was conceived as an extension of Manifest’s Drawing Center mission to promote, feature, and explore drawing as a rich and culturally significant art form. The goal of the International Drawing Annual is to support the recognition, documentation, and publication of excellent, current, and relevant works of drawing from around the world. Fast becoming one of the preeminent international publications focusing on drawing from year to year, the Annual stakes ground on behalf of those working in drawing (of all types), and for Cincinnati as a center of important dialogue about this essential practice.

Over 410 artists from around the world submitted 1100 works for consideration to the 2008 INDA. A ten-person jury and curatorial process selected 100 works by 59 finalists for the forthcoming publication. Selections from the 4th International Drawing Annual serves as a preview sampling prior to the formal release of the publication. The eight works presented here will be among those included in the exhibit-in-print.

Curated by Jason Franz
Susan D’Amato (Syracuse, NY)

*Untitled (Shadow)*, charcoal, 22” x 30”, 2008
Christina Empedocles (San Francisco, CA)

*Orioles and Blackbirds*, wax pencil on paper, 6.25” x 10”, 2008
Gregory Euclide (Minneapolis, MN)

*From this Distance: Sound Pearls*, acrylic, pencil, photo transfer, pine cone, birch bark, paper, 50” x 47”, 2007
The Party Dress, charcoal on toned paper, 11” x 11” 2007
Charles Kanwascher (Waterville, OH)

*Untitled (Patio)*, graphite on panel, 11” x 15”, 2007
Paul Loehle (Cincinnati, OH)

*My Space 1*, pastel, 26” x 18”, 2008
Douglas Miller (Louisville, KY)

*Pig*, mixed media on paper, 32” x 40”, 2008
Ross Racine (New York, NY)

*Subdivision: Greenfield Lakes (small version)*, digital drawing (inkjet on paper), 20.5” x 15.35”, 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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