City-Haze: Recent Paintings by David Smith
ABSTRKT

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MANIFEST is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization
THANK YOU!

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The NLT FOUNDATION
September 30 - October 28, 2011

Curated by Jason Franz

Barbara Blacharczyk
Chicago, Illinois

Brock Cagann
Indianapolis, Indiana

Laura Carpenter
Fort Collins, Colorado

Joel Edwards
Livingston Manor, New York

Kim Flora
Cincinnati, Ohio

Lili Francuz
Fort Collins, Colorado

Benjamin Gardner
Des Moines, Iowa

Daniel Good
Oakland, California

Amanda Lee
Bloomington, Indiana

Marc Leone
Cincinnati, Ohio

Noel Paris
Santa Ana, California

Allison Reimus
Chicago, Illinois

Jeff Robinson
Normal, Illinois

Mary Pat Turner
Nashville, Tennessee

Bart Vargas
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Josh Willis
Brooklyn, New York

Jason Tanner Young
Lincoln, Nebraska

Boris Zakic
Georgetown, Kentucky

Angie Zielinski
Pocatello, Idaho
ABSTRKTT

There are at least three components to a work of art. Often one of them, Subject, supersedes the others, bordering on distraction and flirtation with nostalgia. Abstraction diminishes the role of Subject in such a way as to allow Form a chance to take center stage. In essence, Form becomes the Subject. Ironically, this rebalancing gives way to a clearer, and perhaps more truthful experience of a work of art as a real thing - something that is itself rather than a reference to some external 'other.'

Manifest is excited to launch its 8th season with a project intended to feature and explore contemporary abstraction. From non-objective, geometric, and expressive, to figurative abstraction (works in which there is a recognizable subject matter that is distorted, is in some way not 'realistic', or is clearly secondary to the overall formal nature of the work). With “ABSTRKTT” Manifest continues its tradition of embracing a wide variety of artwork, offering unique views into the nature of art being made today, around the world, by artists you may not otherwise come to know.

For this exhibit 374 artists submitted 977 works for consideration. Twenty-two works by these 19 artists from 12 states were selected by six jurors for presentation in the gallery and this catalog. Of these, five are from our region, and two are Cincinnatians.
Barbara Blacharczyk, Chicago, Illinois

Formation of a Shell #4, ink & graphite on paper, 44” x 30”, 2010
Brock Cagann, Indianapolis, Indiana

*Pastel Abstract*, oil on canvas, 36” x 72”, 2010
Laura Carpenter, Fort Collins, Colorado

*Threshold*, oil & charcoal on canvas, 84” x 72”, 2011
Joel Edwards, Livingston Manor, New York

Interzone, acrylic on wood, 27.5” x 24”, 2011
Kim Flora, Cincinnati, Ohio

Charm City #1, out on a wire, encaustic, oil, collage & toner transfer on panel, 24” x 24”, 2009
Lili Francuz, Fort Collins, Colorado

*Man Baby*, transfer print & collage, 16” x 16”, 2010
Benjamin Gardner, Des Moines, Iowa

A Beast for Thee (Scorpius, Orion's Demise), acrylic, collage, masking tape, colored pencil, watercolor & graphite on panel, 36" x 24", 2011
Daniel Good, Oakland, California

12 Variations on a Frame - Number 4, maple plywood, 21" x 10.5" x 17.5", 2011
Amanda Lee, Bloomington, Indiana

*Untitled 3 Puerto Rico*, silk screen & salt print, 22” x 30”, 2011
Marc Leone, Cincinnati, Ohio

The Tempest, graphite, 30” x 40”, 2009
Noel Paris, Santa Ana, California

*Primitive Tumbler*, collage & paint, 36” x 48”, 2011
Allison Reimus, Chicago, Illinois

*At This Particular Juncture*, acrylic on wood, 24” x 24”, 2011
Jeff Robinson, Normal, Illinois

*Over Cast*, mixed media, 11.5” x 11.5”, 2011
Jeff Robinson, Normal, Illinois  

*Dug Out*, mixed media, 11.5" x 11.5", 2010
Mary Pat Turner, Nashville, Tennessee

100% Real Chicken, oil & acrylic on canvas, 48” x 48”, 2007
Bart Vargas, Minneapolis, Minnesota

*Ripple*, latex paint & epoxy resin on panel, 23” x 28”, 2011
Josh Willis, Brooklyn, New York

*Migdal*, oil on panel, 8.4” x 6.9”, 2010
Josh Willis, Brooklyn, New York

Torre, oil on panel, 6.4" x 7.75", 2010
Josh Willis, Brooklyn, New York  

Minara, oil on panel, 7.75" x 6.75", 2010
Jason Tanner Young, Lincoln, Nebraska

Different Speeds, bronze, walnut & hardware, 19” x 12” x 10”, 2010
Boris Zakic, Georgetown, Kentucky

*Alizarine*, oil on canvas, 61” x 49” oval, 2007
Angie Zielinski, Pocatello, Idaho

Pavement View, acrylic & paint pen on panel, 23.5” x 23.5”, 2011
City-Haze
Recent Paintings by David Smith

David Smith is an Irish artist currently based in Hong Kong. He graduated from Galway/ Mayo I.T. in 1998, I.T. Sligo in 2001 and the University of Ulster 2003 with a Masters degree in Fine Art. He has participated in various exhibitions at the national and international level, including shows in Ireland, the US, Canada and Hong Kong. Most recently he has exhibited in a number of Manifest’s juried shows and has work included in Manifest’s 1st International Painting Annual. He has also participated in collaborative works in Hong Kong including the Hong Kong Shenzhen biennale of Urbanism/Architecture. Smith is primarily a painter but also works on music based projects and soundtracks for video artworks, solo works and soundtracks for short films. More information on David’s work can be found at www.davidsmith-studio.com.
Of his work Smith writes:
My work has always engaged with the idea or notion of landscape. I explore the elements of space, light, scale and materials through a restricted format. The subjects are often isolated, cropped or momentary, showing interplay between architectural/man made elements like buildings, tankers, jets and changeable environmental conditions like light, weather, pollution etc. A grand and mysterious space displayed through a small and intimate scale.

The processes involved are central to the work. The approach is often fluid and adaptable, employing washes and the chemical qualities of oil to disrupt, dissolve, shroud or alter a piece. This facilitation sets the stage for a flexible outcome. The small scale of the paintings is a deliberate attempt to engage with the polarity of depicting vast, elusive spaces on an intimate scale. The simple compositional design, coupled with minimal colour and the unyielding surface of MDF panel, allow the paintings to grow and command more space than their small size suggests.

The overall intent is to present works that are open ended and spare, in scale, content and treatment. The idea of something or somewhere being empty, shrouded, isolated or suggested is intriguing and works as potential for the audience to fill. As an Irish artist based in Hong Kong, the work may also suggest a sense of transience or a feeling of being in a place, yet not in it fully.

For Manifest’s 8th season we received 130 solo, group, and concept proposals for consideration for six spots in our schedule. The fierce enthusiasm of so many artists wishing to exhibit in our humble place in Cincinnati was remarkable, and worth pausing to appreciate. We did.

Then we set to work as a committee winnowing down so many excellent options to a concise few. The results, we think, are perfect. And we begin our 8th season with one of them, City-Haze. This exhibit of recent paintings by David Smith helps launch our exciting schedule by offering an intimate look at paintings being made today, on the other side of the world.

- Jason Franz, Executive Director
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   oil on panel, 12.6” x 15.75”, 2011

2  Trees-abandoned lot
   oil on panel, 10.25” x 12.8”, 2010

3  Chopper-fog-harbour 2
   oil on panel, 7.9” x 9.8”, 2010

4  Chopper-lights-rain
   oil on panel, 7.9” x 9.8”, 2010

5  Jet-storm 2
   oil on panel, 7.9” x 9.8”, 2010

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   oil on panel, 7.9” x 9.8”, 2011

7  Chopper-rain
   oil on panel, 7.9” x 9.8”, 2010

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About Manifest

Founded in 2004 by professors and students from area Universities, Manifest Creative Research Gallery and Drawing Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit arts organization headquartered in the historic urban neighborhood of East Walnut Hills in Cincinnati, Ohio. The 1000 square foot museum-quality street level gallery offers three distinct exhibition spaces, and is minutes away from downtown Cincinnati, and the numerous academic institutions of higher learning in the region. Its central location in the Woodburn Avenue district and DeSales Corner places it within an energetic, creative, and revitalizing community that includes other galleries, shops, restaurants and artists’ studios.

The gallery benefits from its location within easy walking distance of a historic neighborhood populated by 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 of all kinds by student and professional artists from around the world. The Manifest Drawing Center Studio is located in nearby Madisonville.

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

Manifest stands for
the quality presentation, experience, and documentation of the visual arts, engaging students, professionals, and the public from around the world through accessible world-class exhibits, studio programs, and publications.

Manifest Gallery
…a neighborhood gallery for the world.

Manifest Press
…take every exhibit home.

Manifest Drawing Center
…because learning to draw is learning to see.
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