

Signs of the
*Apocalypse /
Rapture*

Exhibition

Hyde Park Art Center
July 19-September 20, 2009
5020 S. Cornell Ave
Chicago, IL 60615

RICKY ALLMAN

Born 1978, Provo, Utah. Currently lives and works in Missouri.
www.rickyallman.com

Ricky Allman received his MFA (Honors) in 2007 from Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI and his BFA (Graduation with Distinction) in 2005 from Massachusetts College of Art, Boston, MA. His work reflects many aspects of his upbringing in Utah, including the geographical environment, mountainous landscapes, and Mormon architecture. In his post-apocalyptic paintings he utilizes geometric abstraction along with organic forms to stimulate the image and allow for the multiple layers to tell a narrative about the possibilities of earth's future.

His work has recently been exhibited at, among others, University of Kansas Lawrence, KS; Swarm Gallery, Oakland, CA; Raid FC, Los Angeles, CA; Milo Gallery, Los Angeles, CA and the Cracow Screen Festival, Krakow, Poland. He was also recently featured in *Juxtapoz* and *Beautiful/Decay* magazines and in *Wallpaper* magazine (2008) in the feature "110 Art and Design Graduates to Watch."

Ricky Allman has forthcoming solo exhibitions at David B Smith Gallery, Denver, CO; Minnesota State University; and Byron Cohen Gallery, Kansas City, MO in 2009 and 2010 and group exhibitions at David B Smith Gallery, Denver, CO and Jail Gallery, Los Angeles, CA in 2009.

OKSANA BADRAK

Born 1978, Moscow, Russia. Currently lives and works in Los Angeles, California.
www.badrak.com

Oksana Badrak received her Illustration Degree in 2001 from Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, CA. She creates dreamy pop/kitsch imagery using a mixed-media approach consisting of a rich combination of digital technology with meticulously hand painted elements. The resulting surreal imagery presents a fantastical visual experience made from various amalgamations of graphic fiction and tightly rendered reality.

Her work has been exhibited at, among others, Fusion 5 Festival (Group Exhibition at 3.14 Hotel), Cannes, France; Junc Gallery, Los Angeles, CA; Art Prostitute, Denton, TX; Roq La Rue Gallery, Seattle, WA; OX-OP, Minneapolis, MN and LaLaLand Gallery, Hollywood, CA.

Oksana Badrak's work has been recognized in *American Illustration*, and *Society of Publication Designers* in their annual publications; and has been published in major editorial publications including *The New Yorker*, *GQ*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *Nickelodeon*, *Playboy*, *Fast Company*, *Rolling Stone*, *Wired*, *eDesign* and *Travel + Leisure*.

KELLY BARRIE

Born 1973, London, England. Currently lives and works in Los Angeles, California.
www.angstromgallery.com

Kelly Barrie received his BFA in 1996 from Hobart College, Geneva, NY; his MFA in 1997 from the California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, CA and is a 1998 graduate of the Whitney Museum I.S.P.

His photography has been exhibited at the 2008 Biennale of Sydney, Australia and the 2008 California Biennial. He has had solo shows at Miler Durazo Fine Arts, Los Angeles, CA; Angstrom Gallery, Los Angeles, CA; UAG/Room Gallery, University of California, Irvine, CA and Gallery 207, Los Angeles, CA. His work has been represented in numerous group exhibitions including Sikkema Jenkins & Co, New York, NY; Queen's Nail Projects, San Francisco, CA; Artists Space, NYC and the Museo Alejandro Otero, Caracas, Venezuela. He is also a recipient of the Durfee Artist Completion Grant.

HISHAM BHAROOCHA

Born 1976, Niigata, Japan. Currently lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.
www.hishamb.net

Hisham Bharoocha received his BFA in 1998 from Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI. He concentrates on creating music, visual art, and photography. His newest works deal with the melting together of images that happens in the mind when one is meditating, dreaming, day dreaming, or going about their daily lives. Bharoocha likes to observe how his visions and feelings all blend together to create a massive medley of images and vibrations that one can feel in the body. He tries to create works that show the absurdity and logic of how each mind works, what kind of relationships it creates between experiences and images that we absorb through our senses moment by moment.

Bharoocha has had solo exhibitions of his work at D'Amelio Terras gallery in New York, as well as Vleeshal, a state run space in The Netherlands. He has been in numerous group exhibitions at galleries such as Deitch Projects, John Connelly Presents, and Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. He has recently held residencies at Le Confort Moderne, Poitiers, France and at Okra India, Hyderabad, India. Bharoocha's work has been published in *Art Forum*, *V*, *i-D*, *Flaunt*, *Tokion*, and *Blend* among others.

Bharoocha has recently collaborated with the artist Doug Aitken on a sound piece, which was performed at the MoMA, as well as musicians such as the experimental rock group Boredoms. Bharoocha is currently working on a new music album under Soft Circle due to be released sometime in 2009.

NINA BOVASSO

Born 1965, New York City. Currently lives and works in New York and Amsterdam.
www.ninabovasso.com

Nina Bovasso received her MFA in Painting in 1999 from Bard College under the Elaine DeKooning Memorial Fellowship, her BFA in 1992 from the San Francisco Art Institute and in 1994 attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture.

Her colorful and densely packed, abstract drawings and paintings have been exhibited at, among others, Galeria Casada Santapau, Madrid, Spain; Atlanta Contemporary Art Center, Atlanta, GA; The Apartment, Athens, Greece; Bravin Lee Programs, NYC; Inman Gallery Houston, TX; Galerie Schmela, Dusseldorf, DE; and Galerie Diana Stingter, Amsterdam, NL. Her work is in the public collections of the Museum of Modern Art, NYC; Collection KPN, Netherlands; AkzoNobel Art Foundation; The New Museum of Contemporary Art, NYC; The Whitney Museum of American Art, NYC; Princeton University Museum of Art, Princeton, NJ; Weissman Foundation, Los Angeles, CA and Colección Bergé, Madrid, Spain among others.

Nina Bovasso has a forthcoming solo exhibition at BravinLee Programs, NYC in 2009.

SEBASTIAAN BREMER

Born 1970, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Currently lives and works in New York City.
www.sebastiaanbremer.com

Sebastiaan Bremer attended the open studio program at the Vrije Academie in The Hague from 1989 until 1991 then received the Werkbeurs Grant from FBKVB in Holland and moved to New York in 1992. In 1998 he attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in Maine where he began experimenting with murals, collage paintings, and began drawing directly on photographs, the style which he continues to use today. In 2001 Bremer had a solo-debut, 'Veronica' at Roebing Hall, New York.

His work is part of several important collections in the US and abroad, including the Victoria & Albert Museum, London, England; Museum of Modern Art, NYC; Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA; The Zabudowicz Trust, London, England; the Rabobank Collection, The Netherlands; Lodeveans Contemporary LLP, London, England and the Berger Collection, Zurich, Switzerland. Bremer's artwork has been exhibited at the Tate Modern, London, England; the Brooklyn Museum of Art, Brooklyn, NY; The Aldrich Museum, Connecticut, MA; PS1/MoMA, NYC and Het Gemeentemuseum, The Hague, NL.

He recently completed work on a commission for the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, in which he referenced work in LACMA's collection of Dutch Master paintings. In May 2008 he had a solo show at Galerie Barbara Thumm, Berlin, Germany. Bremer's work is currently on view in various group shows in New York City. He had a solo show at James Fuentes LLC in Chinatown, NYC in June 2009. In July and August he will be the artist in residence at Het Vijfde Seizoen in the Netherlands, and has two solo shows in September at Hales Gallery, London, England and at Bravin Lee Programs, NYC.

CHRISTOPHER BUCKLOW

Born 1957, Manchester England. Currently lives and works in Somerset, England.
www.chrisbucklow.com

Christopher Bucklow received his BA (Honors) in Art History in 1978 from Leicester Polytechnic, Leicester, England. His *Guest* series establishes a cast of characters drawn from his circle of friends—and in some cases—foes. Bucklow sees the figures as either representing types of personality that he already contains (and is comfortable with); or as a character trait that he admires and aspires to incorporate within himself. Others signify types that he wishes to expel from his own mind. The full group is thus a self-reflecting gallery of portraits that represent different aspects of the artist's own psyche.

Unlike conventional photography, each image is unique and unrepeatable. The process Bucklow uses creates an unusually intense quality of light and the images are formed using sunlight with a technique similar to the pinhole photography developed in the late nineteenth century. He begins by making life-size silhouette drawings direct from the sitter's shadow on to sheets of aluminium foil, which is then painstakingly penetrated with thousands of pinholes within the outline of the shape. These pinholes act as the camera's lenses. Using a large home-made camera, he then places the foil on top and loads colour photographic paper at the back. Sunlight is then allowed to shine through, recording many images of the sun and sky simultaneously, thus forming the shape of the figure on the paper behind. Bucklow achieves a variation in the different works depending on the intensity of the sunlight, the time of day and the speed at which the pinholes are exposed to the light.

Bucklow's work has recently been exhibited in solo shows at Mssokan, Kobe, Japan; Arterreal, Sydney, Australia; Rifelmaker, London, England; Galerie Vassie, Amsterdam, NL; Wordsworth Trust, Grasmere, England and Galerie Edward Mitterand, Geneva, Switzerland. He has shown in recent group shows at the Museum of Modern Art, NYC; Abbot Hall Art Gallery, Kendal, England and University of Cork, Ireland, among several others. His work is included in numerous public collections including Museum of Modern Art, NYC; Metropolitan Museum of Art, NYC; The British Council, Israel; Modern Art Museum, Fort Worth, TX; Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK; Herzliya Museum of Art, Israel; Yale Center for British Art, New Haven, CT and Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA among others.

His photographic work has been published in the book *Guest* by Blindspot, New York (2004). A book of his drawings, with conversations with the psychoanalyst Adam Philips and essays by Marina Warner and Roger Malbert was published by The British Museum and the Wordsworth Trust in 2004. He has also recently completed a book on the symbolism of the late work of Philip Guston. Bucklow's work was shortlisted for the 2007 Jerwood Drawing Prize.

DAN DE LOS MONTEROS

Born 1983, Hickory Hills, Illinois. Lives and works in Chicago, Illinois.
www.dandelosmonteros.com

Dan De Los Monteros received his BFA from The School of the Art Institute, Chicago, IL in 2006. He was a recipient of the Grace and Walter Byron Smith Scholarship, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL from 2002-2005. His large scale photographs of nature evoke tranquil and perhaps, at times, transcendent states of being. His focused subjects of trees, clouds, water and mountains are brought directly in front of the viewer—usually in panoramic format—creating an experience that is often on an epic scale.

His work has recently been exhibited at C33 Gallery, Columbia College, Chicago, IL and at Chicago City Arts Gallery, Chicago, IL. He is currently showing paintings and photographs at Piccolo, Chicago, IL.

EDUARDO DESOIGNIE

Born Cuba. Currently lives and works in Chicago, Illinois.
www.eduardodesoignie.com

Eduardo de Soignie earned his BFA in 1996 at the School of the Art Institute, Chicago, IL. His images fuse the Cuban modernist fascination with flux, velocity, and transformation—originated by Carlos Enríquez and Wifredo Lam—with the North American fascination with pop-culture elements. The result is a tongue-in-cheek pictorial theater that can be playful and sardonic while still explore meaningfully the dynamics of reverie and the metaphors of the dream-state. He is particularly deft in exploring internal pauses and breaks in the pictorial scene to capture the video-like spliced rhythms of oneiric thinking, without falling on facile juxtapositions or employing trite or gratuitous weirdness.

His work has been exhibited at the Indianapolis Art Center, Indianapolis, IN; UIC Student Center, Chicago, IL; South Bend Regional Museum of Art, IN; Cold Spring Harbor Laboratories, Long Island, NY; Legion Arts, Cedar Rapids, IA; The Gunder Mansion, North Lakeside Cultural Center, Chicago, IL; Zhou B. Art Center, Chicago, IL; Marchetti Gallery, Chicago, IL and Muskegon Community College, Muskegon, MI among others. His paintings are included in the collections of The Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL; Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring, NY; Instituto Cervantes, Chicago, IL; Valpraiso Foundation, Valpraiso, Spain; Notoro Foundation, Sopot, Poland; Le Centre D'Art, Biae St. Paul, Quebec, Canada and Channel 44 Television, Chicago, IL.

In 2009, de Soignie had a solo exhibition, *Ex Vivo: Out of the Living*, at Ditmar Memorial Gallery, Evanston, IL and was in a group show, *Places: From Arcadia to Urban Landscape*, at Murphy Hill Gallery, Chicago, IL.

JON ELLIOTT

Born 1974, USA. Currently lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.
www.jonelliottonline.com

John Elliott studied Drawing/Painting at Georgia State University in Atlanta, and received his MFA in Painting/Printmaking from Rhode Island School of Design in 2001. The paintings of Jon Elliott are complex commentaries on excess and waste in our society. With somewhat ambiguous settings that appear to be on the outskirts of urban centers, Elliott is engaged in the contemporary fascination with exposing the marginal activities of international capitalism. These paintings focus on a small subset of motifs, such as computers, televisions, and video tapes, all relating to the transmission of fantasy, ideology, and identity. In Elliott's recent paintings, piles of computers and televisions, mixed with the occasional oil/waste drum, populate various waterways. Radiant, though somewhat toxic skies drip, and cast their neon color schemes over these dark and sublime waterscapes, while mysterious, undulating patterns appear like life-forms born of chemical and digital run-off. Even with their somewhat bleak subject matter, these paintings depict signs of a tenacious survival, not only of the natural world, but also of the humanity within.

Recent solo exhibitions include *Continental Drift* at 31GRAND Gallery, NY in 2007, and *The Pursuit of Happiness* at Freedman Gallery, Albright College in 2009. Recent group shows include *Giving Face* at Nicholas Robinson Gallery, NYC; *Preview 09* at White Box, NYC; Zoo Art Fair, Royal Academy of Arts, London, England (represented by Roebing Hall, NYC); *From Our Living Room To Yours* at Goff and Rosenthal, Berlin, Germany and *Nature Interrupted* at the Chelsea Art Museum, NYC in 2008.

Elliott has forthcoming exhibitions this year at SIGGRAPH Asia, Yokohama, Japan; Rebecca Randall Bryan Art Gallery, Coastal Carolina University, SC and at the Dieu Donne Annual Benefit Auction, NYC.

LORA FOSBERG

Born 1966, Waukegan, IL. Currently lives and works in Chicago, Illinois and Michigan.
www.lorafosberg.com

Lora Fosberg received her BFA in Painting and Printmaking in 1988 from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL and her MFA in Painting and Printmaking in 1992 from the School of the Art Institute, Chicago, IL. In an attempt to utilize metaphor, memory, iconography, and narrative, her work expresses conscious life in its most banal forms. Fosberg's attempt is to transform objects and events of everyday life into symbols of the universal, thus enabling her to participate within a large and complex audience.

She has recently exhibited her work at Art Chicago, represented by Linda Warren Gallery, Chicago, IL; Next Art Fair, represented by Pele Prints, ST. Louis, MO; Red Dot Art Fair, represented by Jack Fischer Gallery, San Francisco, CA; Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL; Kent State University, Kent, OH and Urban Institute for Contemporary Art, Grand Rapids, MI. She released a new book of her work in 2008 titled *The End of the Beginning: A Decade of Work*.

JULIE HEFFERNAN

Born 1956, Peoria, IL. Currently lives and works in New York.
www.ppowgallery.com

Julie Heffernan received her BFA (with High Honors) in 1981 from the University of California, Santa Cruz, CA and her MFA in 1985 at Yale School of Art, New Haven, CT. She creates lush and sensuous large-scale figurative (and still life) paintings that at first glance seem to have stepped out of either the Italian or Spanish Renaissance or 17th century Dutch genre still-life or grand manner landscape painting. Heffernan's concerns, however, are clearly of the late 20th Century as her symbolism references a combination of psychological issues surrounding feminism, gender issues, class structure and motherhood. Her ability to cross-reference centuries and issues, both political and private, in large-scale figurative paintings, makes Heffernan one of the most unique artists working today.

Heffernan has been exhibiting widely for the past two decades including The Korean Biennial; Weatherspoon Art Gallery, NC; Tampa Museum Of Art, FL; Knoxville Museum Of Art, TN; Columbia Museum Of Art, SC; Milwaukee Art Museum, WI; The New Museum, NY; The Norton Museum, FL; The American Academy Of Arts And Letters, NY; Kohler Arts Center, WI; The Palmer Museum Of Art, PA; National Academy Of Art, NY; McNay Art Museum, TX; Herter Art Gallery, MA; Mint Museum, NC; Virginia Museum of Fine Art, VA, among numerous others.

CODY HUDSON

Born 1971, Kenosha, Wisconsin. Currently lives and works in Chicago, Illinois.
www.codyhudson.net

Cody Hudson's graphic work and paintings have been exhibited throughout the US, Europe and Japan including the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL; New Image Art, Los Angeles, CA; Fifty24SF Gallery, San Francisco, CA; Rocket Gallery, Tokyo, Japan; The Lazy Dog, Paris, France and Andrew Rafacz Gallery, Chicago, IL.

In 2006 he was commissioned by the City of Chicago Public Art Program to create a permanent installation at the Sox/35th CTA station as part of the Arts in Transit Program. His work has been featured in numerous magazines and publications including *idN*, *Arkitip*, *Anthem* and *Juxtapoz*. In 2008 he released the book *Save My Life* (published by Fifty24SF Gallery), a collection of graphic design, drawings, paintings, prints and photographs of street installation work that Hudson has produced over the past few years.

Hudson currently has a collage and sculptural installation, *Let's Do Some Living After We Die*, in the Foyer Project Space of the Hyde Park Art Center. The installation will change and grow in three intervals, May 11th, July 19th, and August 19th, during the six-month exhibition period.

JENNIFER J.L. JONES

Born 1971, Virginia. Currently lives and works in Atlanta, Georgia.
www.jenniferjonesart.com

Jennifer J.L. Jones received her BFA in 1994 from the School of the Art Institute, Chicago, IL. Her work continually explores the idea of energy and beauty through color, texture and the influence of nature. With a vast combination of media such as wax, asphalt, oil paint and paper textures, she evokes emotions, thoughts, and universal connecting points in the observer.

Her work has been exhibited at select galleries located in Alabama, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Texas. She is currently represented by Fay Gold Gallery, Atlanta, GA; Belushi Pisano Gallery, Martha's Vineyard, MA; Stellers Gallery, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL; Hunter Kirkland Contemporary, Santa Fe, NM; Soho-Myriad, Culver City, CA; Artizen Fine Arts, Dallas, TX; Andrea Schwartz Gallery, San Francisco, CA; Graphic Encounter, Basalt, CO and Art + Artisans, Austin and Houston, TX.

Jones' work is included in numerous international corporate and private collections, including those of Oprah Winfrey, Judith Belushi Pisano and the U.S. Embassy, Lisbon, Portugal among others.

SOO KIM

Born 1969, Seoul, Korea. Currently lives and works in Los Angeles, California.
www.sandronirey.com

Soo Kim received her BA in Studio Art in 1996 from the University of Riverside, Riverside, CA and her MFA in 1995 from the California Institute of the Arts, School of Art, Critical Writing, Film and Video, Valencia, CA. Her work has recently been exhibited in solo shows at, among other venues, Sandroni Rey, Los Angeles, CA; Pasadena Museum of California Art, Pasadena, CA; and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Agency, Los Angeles, CA and in group shows at Armory Center for the Arts, Pasadena, CA; Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY; Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, CA; Korean American Museum, Los Angeles, CA; Teoretica Gallery, San Jose, Costa Rica; Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, CA; Centro Cultural Tijuana, Tijuana, Mexico and Andrew Shire Gallery, Los Angeles, CA.

Kim's work is in the collections of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Los Angeles, CA; The Broad Foundation, Los Angeles, CA; The Strauss Collection; The Ovitz Collection; The California Museum of Photography, Riverside, CA; the University of California, Irvine, CA and the University of California, Santa Barbara, CA. She has also received awards from the Durfee Foundation, Santa Monica, CA and the Los Angeles Center for Photographic Studies, Los Angeles, CA.

In January of 2009 Soo Kim exhibited her hand-cut, painted and collaged photographs from her Superheavies series in the show *New Beginnings*, organized by Pamela Meredith at Susan Hobbs Gallery, Toronto, Canada. In 2010 she will be in the show *Urban Panoramas* along with Catherine Opie and Jeff Liao at the J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, CA. This exhibition will explore the essential rhythms of three cities while showing the range of technologies used by photographic artists today. In her new work for this show, Soo Kim achieves a three-dimensional effect of a semitransparent city by layering layering hand-cut chromogenic prints made in Reykjavik, Iceland during the summer solstice.

ELLEN KOOI

Born 1962, Leeuwarden, the Netherlands. Currently lives and works in Haarlem, the Netherlands.
www.ellenkooi.nl

Ellen Kooi received her Post Graduate Degree in Arts in 1994 from the Rijksacademy, Amsterdam, Netherlands. She currently creates carefully staged panoramic photographs of the Dutch landscape that are a blend of documentation and psychology. She works in the manner of a film director, making preliminary sketches, designing the location and lighting, and positioning her human subjects. Through elaborate lighting and the help of double and triple light exposures, she conveys moods of romanticism, melancholy and spirituality in the landscape that surrounds her characters.

Her work has been exhibited throughout the United States and Europe. In 2009 alone, her work is showing at ARCO, Madrid, Spain; Pulse Miami, Miami, Florida; Paris Photo, Paris, France; and Artesantader, Santander, Spain. Her work has also recently been exhibited at, among others, Art Chicago, Chicago, IL (represented by P·P·O·W Gallery, NYC); Espacio Líquido, Gijón, Spain; La Casa Encendida, Madrid, Spain; Catharine Clark Gallery, San Francisco, CA and PULSE London Art Fair, Mary Ward House, London, England. Her work is included in semi-public and public international collections including FNAC, French State Collection, Paris, France; Marsh Collection, London, England; C.B.K. Groningen (Centre of Contemporary Art); Fries Museum and Frans Hals Museum, Leeuwarden and Musac, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Castilla Y León, Spain as well as in numerous private collections.

Currently, Kooi has an exhibition of recent work at Kunsthal Rotterdam, NL; Gallery Camara Oscura (as part of Festival Off PhotoEspaña) and at Gallery Beaumontpublic, Luxemburg. This fall Kooi will be in a group show *Dutch Art, 400 Years of Trade Relations Japan-Netherlands* at Okura Hotel, Tokyo, Japan and has a forthcoming solo exhibition at Torch Gallery, Amsterdam, NL.

MARK MCGINNIS

Born 1968, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Currently lives and works in Chicago, Illinois and New York City.
www.markmcginnisdesign.com

Mark McGinnis received his BFA in 1990 from the Columbus College of Art and Design, Columbus, OH. His multi-media work explores the symbolism behind social and political issues through their permeation in daily life here in America and abroad.

McGinnis' work has shown in solo exhibitions at Art Front Gallery, Los Angeles, CA and Country Club, Chicago, IL and in group shows at Co-Prosperity Sphere, Country Club and Placeholder Gallery, Chicago, IL. His work has been featured in publications including *The New York Times*, *Book Band* and *Business Week*.

JULIE MEHRETU

Born 1970, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Currently lives and work in New York City.
www.elproyecto.com

Julie Mehretu received her BA in 1992 from Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo, MI and her MFA (Honors) in 1997 from Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI. Mehretu creates large-scale, gestural paintings that are built up through layers of acrylic paint on canvas overlaid with mark-making using pencil, pen, ink and thick streams of paint. Mehretu's work conveys a layering and compression of time, space and place and a collapse of art historical references, from the dynamism of the Italian Futurists and the geometric abstraction of Malevich to the enveloping scale of Abstract Expressionist colour field painting. In her highly worked paintings, Mehretu creates new narratives using abstracted images of cities, histories, wars and geographies with a frenetic mark making that for the artist becomes a way of signifying social agency as well suggesting an unravelling of a personal biography.

Mehretu is the recipient of several prestigious grants and awards, most recently including the American Academy in Berlin Fellowship; the Rhode Island School of Design Alumni Council Artistic Achievement Award, RI; the American Art Award, Whitney Museum of Art, New York, NY; and the MacArthur Fellow. She has exhibited in several important group exhibitions including 'Poetic Justice', 8th Istanbul Biennial (2003), Whitney Biennial (2004), São Paulo Biennial (2004), Carnegie International, Pittsburgh (2004) and Biennale of Sydney (2006). Solo exhibitions include Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, REDCAT, Los Angeles and Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo (2003), St Louis Art Museum (2005) and MUSAC, León, Spain (2006).

RICHARD MISRACH

Born 1949, Los Angeles, California. Currently lives and works in Berkley, California.
www.fraenkeltgallery.com / www.marcselwynfineart.com / www.pacemacgill.com

Richard Misrach received his BA in Psychology in 1971 from the University of California, Berkeley. The earth and its topography are pervasive in Misrach's work. Although he often embraces seductive subject matter (unspoiled seascapes, dramatic sunsets) in homage to our planet's beauty, Misrach maintains a critical position by also capturing evidence of humankind's negative impact on the environment. Misrach is known for his technical contributions to the field; in the 1970s he helped popularize the use of color photography and the now familiar large-scale format.

His photos have been the focus of numerous solo exhibitions, such as his midcareer retrospective *Crimes and Splendors: The Desert Cantos of Richard Misrach*, organized by the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (1996), and later shown at the Center for Creative Photography, Tucson; *Cancer Alley* at the High Museum of Art, Atlanta (2000); *Richard Misrach: Berkley Work*, mounted by the Berkley Art Museum (2002) and *Richard Misrach: On the Beach* (2007). His work has also been featured in group shows, including the Whitney Biennial at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; the Denver Art Museum; the German Society for Photography, Hamburg; and Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington D.C.

He has received numerous awards, including the National Endowment for the Arts (1973, 1977, 1984, 1992); a Guggenheim Fellowship (1979); the International Center of Photography Infinity Award for a Publication (1988) and the Distinguished Career in Photography Award from the Los Angeles Center for Photographic Studies (1994). The German Society for Photography honored him with its Cultural Award for Lifetime Achievement (2002). His photographs can be found in over 50 museum collections worldwide, including the Centre Pompidou, Paris; the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York. Misrach also has several prize-winning monographs, including *Telegraph 3 A.M.: The Street People of Telegraph Avenue, Berkley* (1974), *Desert Cantos* (1984), *Bravo 20: The Bombing of the American West* (1990); *Richard Misrach: Golden Gate* (2001) and *On the Beach* (2007).

DAVID OPDYKE

Born 1969, Niskayuna, New York. Currently lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.
www.davidopdyke.com

David Opdyke received his BFA in 1992 from University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH. His multimedia work—ranging from painting and drawing to sculpture and installation—casts a critical eye on contemporary political and corporate strategies of disseminating information, economic imperialism, cultural globalization and the ever-increasing power of American consumerism.

His work has been exhibited at, among other venues, Fabbrica del Vapore, Milan, Italy; Ronald Feldman Fine Arts, NYC; Roebbling Hall, NYC; Bravin Lee Programs, NYC; the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. and the Brooklyn Museum of Art, NY. He is the recipient of the Aldrich Emerging Artist Award from the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum in Ridgefield, CT and the New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship in Sculpture.

In the Spring/Summer of 2009 Opdyke is holding a residency at Lower East Side Printshop, NYC and a Yaddo Artist Residency in Saratoga, NY. His work was also included in recent group shows: *2,191 Days and Counting*, a benefit exhibition for the Iraq Veterans Against the War at Powerhouse Arena, Brooklyn, NY; *Your Documents Please at Galeria Z. Bratislava, Slovakia* and a guerilla exhibition *Themes and Variations: On the Use of Repetition in 21st Century Art* curated by Cristin Tierney in NYC.

EMILIO PEREZ

Born 1972, New York. Currently lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.
www.galerielelong.com

Emilio Perez studied at the Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY from 1990-1992 and in received his BFA in 1995 from the University of Florida, New World School of the Arts, Miami, FL. His vibrant and evocative paintings are the result of a distinctive method that involves applying layers of paint to a wood panel then using a knife to slice and remove pieces of the top layer, revealing the colors underneath. The results are complex compositions that read from afar as strictly graphic yet, at closer view, are elegant, intimate, and with a strong sense of depth and texture. Interpretations of what is amid the organized chaos are deliberately varied. The abstractions may be read as representations of harmony, conflict, nature, urban life, freedom, confinement, invention, or subversion. They may be viewed as records of physical movement, brain activity, or emotional shifts. The imagery compels the viewer to make unique and personal associations, emphasizing the character of the work, which is potent, poignant, and alive.

Perez's work has been exhibited in solo shows at FILIALE, Berlin, Germany; Galerie LeLong, NYC; Barbara Davis Gallery, Houston, TX; LUXE Gallery, NYC; Rocket Projects, Miami, FL; and Ambrosino Gallery, Miami, FL. Recent group shows include Gallery Joe, Philadelphia, PA; Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY; Galerie Conrads, Düsseldorf, Germany; Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, CO; Museum of Fine Arts, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL; Angell Gallery, Toronto, Canada; Byblos Art Gallery, Verona, Italy and AR Contemporary, Milan, Italy. His work is in the public collections of Albright Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY; Arkansas Art Center, Little Rock, AR; Fidelity Corporate Art Collection, Fidelity Investments, Boston, MA and the Miami Art Museum, Miami, FL.

JEAN-PIERRE ROY

Born in Santa Monica, California 1974. Currently lives and works in New York City.
www.jean-pierrero.com

Jean-Pierre Roy received his BFA in 1996 from Loyola Marymount University and his MFA in 2002 from New York Academy of Art. His strikingly altered landscape paintings are driven in large part by his motivation to reproduce the physical systems of the world from imagination. His analytical application of invented light forms an underlying meditation that compliments the larger, thematic narratives of his paintings—change, time, decay and rebirth. The contrast between the built and natural structures in his paintings speaks to a larger struggle for control between the systems of man and the systems of nature. The discovery to be found exists in the moments where these two overlap—where they are neither wholly themselves, or neither wholly each other.

Roy's work has recently been exhibited at Roq La Rue Gallery in Seattle, Linda Warren Gallery, Chicago; Sloan Fine Art, NY; Wonderland Art Space, Copenhagen, Greene Contemporary NY, The Puffin Foundation, Teanec, NJ; The Nueberger Museum of Art, NY and the Stolen Space Gallery, London among others. His work is included in the private collections of Eric Fischl, Jean Pigozzi, Gary and Mary Hellinger, Sean Gelb, Leonardo DiCaprio, Kirkland and Ellis, Anita and Pujo Zabłudowicz, and Bjorn Borg. This spring he makes his solo debut in Europe at Galerie Schuster, Berlin.

JOHN PRANICA

Currently lives and works in Chicago, Illinois.
www.johnpranica.com

John Pranic is an emerging artist, who studied fine arts at Art Center College of Design. His portraits are in private collections including that of Murtha and Mary Rooney. He has shown in a 4-person show at Troxel Gallery in Chicago in 2007. He is presently producing a series of paintings of infinite love, the subjects of which are rewarded for benevolence, with an abundant future, memories of this world, friendship with creatures and in company with people from the past in the shelter of the universe.

ALISON RUTTAN

Born 1954. Currently lives and works in Chicago, Illinois.
www.alisonruttan.com

Alison Ruttan received her BFA in 1976 from the University of Michigan and her MFA in 1992 from the School of the Art Institute, Chicago, IL. She is an interdisciplinary artist working in drawing, photography and video. Her body of work is informed by social theory and the biological sciences, but applied in a more speculative fashion. She is particularly interested in the complex kinds of social exchanges that are best understood visually or at the level of physiological response—much of her work has focused on appetite, sexuality and aggression.

Her work has been exhibited at, among others, Monique Meloche Gallery, Chicago, IL; Galerie Wit, Wageningen, Netherlands; Gallery TPW, Toronto, Canada; Rocket Gallery, London, England; Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago, IL; The Drawing Center, NYC; Minneapolis Institute of Art, MN. She is the recipient of various awards including the Illinois Arts Council Visual Arts Award; Jerome Foundation Artist Fellowship and Wexner Center for the Arts Art & Technology Residency, Ohio State University.

Ruttan continues today to investigate her interest in comparing primate and human behavior. In 2005 she held an Artist Residency at Wild Animal Park, Escondido, CA, where she spent numerous hours recording video and photographs of Bonobo life that are now part of her ongoing Primates Series.

CARRIE SCHNEIDER

Born 1979, Chicago, Illinois. Currently lives and works in Chicago, Illinois and Helsinki, Finland.
www.carrieschneider.net

Carrie Schneider received her BFA in 2001 from Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA and her MFA in 2007 from the School of the Art Institute, Chicago, IL. Upon graduating, she attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Skowhegan, ME and the Kuvataideakatemia (Finnish Academy of Fine Arts) in Helsinki, Finland on a Fulbright Fellowship.

She has had recent solo exhibitions at the Finnish Museum of Photography, Helsinki, Finland; Trondheim Academy of Fine Art, Trondheim, Norway; Monique Meloche Gallery, Chicago; and FAFA Gallery, Helsinki, Finland.

This July she is attending the Harold Arts Artist Residency at Jeffers Tree Farm, Chesterhill, OH and in August she will be filming in Helsinki with the Finnish Promotion Center for Media Culture (AVEK) Production Grant. Upcoming group shows include *My Strawberry Roan: New Art from America*, curated by Elina Tuhkanein, Galleria FAFA, Helsinki, Finland and *Urban Stories*, Gallery Kalhama & Piipo Contemporary, Helsinki, Finland.

MATTHEW SCHREIBER

Born 1966, Cleveland, Ohio. Currently lives and works in New York City and Miami, Florida
www.matthewschreiber.com

Matthew Schreiber received his BFA in 1990 from the University of Florida and his MFA in 1994 from the School of the Art Institute, Chicago, IL. He also attended the Royal College of Art, London England as exchange in 1993-1994.

His work has been exhibited at, among others, Invisible Exports, NYC, Miami Art Museum, Miami, FL; the Fireplace Project, East Hampton, NY; Twenty Twenty Projects, Miami, FL; Galerie Almine Rech, Paris, France; Ft. Lauderdale Museum of Art, Ft. Lauderdale, FL and Ingalls & Associates, Miami, FL. He has held residencies at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Long Island, NY and at the Center for Holographic Studies, Brooklyn, NY, awarded by the Shearwater Foundation.

CASE SIMMONS & ANDREW BURKE

Both currently live and work in Los Angeles, California.
www.simmonsandburke.com

Case Simmons received his BFA in 2007 from the San Francisco Art Institute and Andrew Burke received his Masters in Music in 2007 from the University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music.

Simmons & Burke began their collaboration in 2006, with their *Temple* series. Taking inspiration from pop icons, sacred geometry, and current events, Simmons creates large-scale digital photo collages by embedding thousands of images taken off of the internet onto a single photograph, forming temples and shrines of current American culture on the brink, caught in an impossible moment of spectacle. In collaboration with Simmons, Burke constructs sound-collage environments that reference a database of several thousand short, mostly recognizable web-appropriated samples. The program designed for each temple, layers samples in a constantly shifting manner, creating a final audio output that never sounds the same twice.

Their work has been exhibited at, among others, Kim Light/Lightbox Gallery, Los Angeles, CA; Blackbird Space, San Francisco, CA; Wonderland Art Space, Copenhagen, DK; Nathan Larramendy Gallery, Ojai, CA; Art Basel Miami 2006 and NADA Art Fair 2008, Miami, FL (represented by Kim Light/Lightbox Gallery, LA).

In the Spring of 2009 the work of Simmons & Burke was included in the group shows *House of Campari's First Look: An Exhibition of Emerging Artists from Los Angeles Galleries*, curated by Simon Watson and Craig Hensala, Los Angeles, CA; *I Want You to Want Me*, Marx & Zavattero, San Francisco, CA and *Beautiful/Decay A to Z*, Kopeikin Gallery, Los Angeles, CA.

ERIKA SOMOGYI

Born 1977, Suffern, New York. Currently lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.
www.throughthetrees.net

Erika Somogyi received her BFA in 1999 from the School of Visual Arts, NYC. Her paintings and sculptural work portray light filled landscapes and human forms. These elements combine to record a sublime connection with nature while simultaneously evoking a longing for that connection.

Somogyi has exhibited her work throughout the U.S. and internationally including Mountain Fold Gallery, NYC; Jack Hanley Gallery, San Francisco, CA and Annarumma 404 Gallery, Naples, Italy.

JOHN SPARAGNA

Born 1958, Rochester, New York. Currently lives and works in Houston, Texas and Chicago, Illinois.
www.ctrlgallery.com / www.priskajuschkafineart.com

John Sparagana received his BGS in 1980 from the University of Michigan and his MFA in 1987 from Stanford University, Stanford, CA. His work has evolved in recent years from a traditional painting practice to a critically driven practice in which his means of visual articulation have been the appropriation and manipulation of images from mass culture. He uses the appropriated material as a vehicle for self-reflexive exploration, and to infer content that is intrinsic to our culture, but is typically repressed or made covert in popular imagery. In his newest work he has been making large collage constructions in which he physically mixes, or stretch popular media images through cutting eighth inch strips of magazine pages, and then gluing them down in sequence, altering what the index image(s) mean and allude to, as well as how they look.

He has presented solo exhibitions of his work at, amongst others, Priska C. Juschka Fine Art, NYC; CTRL Gallery, Houston, TX; Monique Meloche, Chicago, IL; Mixture Contemporary, Houston, TX; James Gallery, Houston, TX; Roswell Museum & Art Center, Roswell, NM; and Forum Gallery, NYC. Sparagana has been the recipient of numerous awards and fellowships. Among these are awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Cultural Arts Council of Houston and Cité International Des Arts, Paris, France (through Stanford

University). His work is in the public collections of the Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago, IL; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX; Nelson Atkins Museum, Kansas City, MO and the Sheldon Museum of Art, Lincoln, NE.

ANDREW SCHULTZ

Born 1975, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Currently lives and works in San Francisco.
www.andrewschultz.com

Andrew Schultz received his BFA in 2003 from Academy of Art University, San Francisco. He has exhibited his paintings, drawings and multi-media installations in galleries and museums worldwide. Most recently including Roberts & Tilton, Culver City, CA; Marx & Zavattero, San Francisco, CA; MAMA Showroom, Witte de Withstraat, Rotterdam, NL; Morgan Lehman Gallery, NYC; V-1 Gallery, Copenhagen, DK; Whitewall Gallery, San Francisco, CA and Jonathan Levine Gallery, NYC.

Schultz has also spent a tremendous amount of time creating murals and other various works in the streets of the U.S. and abroad. This year he exhibited at "Chelsea Visits Havana," Havana, Cuba and has a forthcoming solo exhibition at Locust Projects, Miami, FL.

DOUG & MIKE STARN

Born 1961, New Jersey. Both currently live and work in Brooklyn, New York.
www.starnstudio.com

Identical twins, Doug and Mike Starn work collaboratively with photography and continue to defy categorization by effectively combining traditionally separate disciplines such as sculpture, photography, painting, video, and installation.

Doug and Mike Starn's art has been the object of numerous solo and group exhibitions in museums and galleries worldwide including the 1987 Whitney Museum of American Art Biennial, New York; The Victoria & Albert Museum, London; and, the Stedelijk Museum De Lakenhal, Leiden, the Netherlands. The Starns have received the following honors: two National Endowment for the Arts Grants in 1987 and 1995; The International Center for Photography's Infinity Award for Fine Art Photography in 1992; and, artists in residency at NASA in the mid-nineties.

The Starns major artworks are represented in public and private collections including: La Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris; La Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Museum of Modern Art, NY; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, NY; The Jewish Museum, NY; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, NY; The National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne; Whitney Museum of American Art, NY; and, Yokohama Museum of Art, Japan; amongst many others.

Mike and Doug Starn are currently working on *Big Bambú*, their first architectural work crossing over with performance. This monumental artwork finds roots in their 1990 pipe clamps photographic sculptural installations (*Sphere of Influence and Amaterasu...*). The Starns direct the ongoing building and dismantling of *Big Bambú*. In a simultaneous act of construction and deconstruction, a team of 10 rock-climbers lash and unlash over 2,000 bamboo poles from polymorphous towers and arches dealing with representations of chaos and complexity. The artwork (50-foot tall, with 60 by 80 footprint) unfurls, from within, throughout the 300-foot long former Tallix Foundry in Beacon, NY. Earlier this year, the artists completed their first public commission, inaugurated at the NYC South Ferry subway terminal; titled *See it split, see it change*.

MICHAEL TARBI

Born 1980, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Currently lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.
www.michaeltarbi.com

Michael Tarbi attended the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts from 1998-2002 where he received numerous awards for his work including the Henry J. Schiedt Travel Scholarship and the Angelo Pinto Award for Experimental Work. Since then, his work has appeared in various gallery and museum exhibitions including The Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia, PA; The Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, PA; The Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington D.C. and James Cohan Gallery, NYC. His first solo exhibition took place at Thomas Robertello Gallery, Chicago, IL in 2006. In 2008 Tarbi's work was included in the flat files at Pierogi, Brooklyn, NY.

Michael Tarbi's work is currently on exhibition in *Wish You Were Here 8* at A.I.R. Gallery, Brooklyn, NY until July 19, 2009.

NICOLA VERLATO

Born 1965, Verona, Italy. Currently lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.
www.nicolaverlato.com

Nicola Verlato completed his studies at Conservatorio, (Lute and Composition), Verona, Italy from 1980-1984 and at IUAV (Institute of Architecture, Venice), Venezia, Italy from 1985-1990. His artworks capture the unexpected meeting of the Renaissance's formal rules with a video game theme. Starting from a computer graphic, he connects Michelangelo's working process with a Hollywood mega-production. Subjects are politically un-correct, brilliant and dramatically contemporary. Rappers and burlesque porno divas become saints

and martyrs, mothers are represented as Dante's devils, and skulls and blue jeans offer unexpected visuals. Comics, cinema and rock music are all inspirations for Verlato who uses traditional rules with a touch of Dalí surrealism, creating his own "metaphysical obvious"—a contemporary and unconscious gallery of the new visuals and archetypes born from the Internet era.

He has had solo exhibitions at, among others, Bonelli Arte Contemporanea, Mantova, Italy; Fabio Paris Gallery, Brescia, Italy; Stux Gallery, NYC; Luxe Gallery, NYC; Mudimadue, Berlin, Germany; Davide Di Maggio, Milan and Totem il canale, Venice, Italy. His work has been exhibited in numerous group exhibitions including at Laguna Art Museum, Laguna Beach, CA; *The Chelsea project* (2008), curated by Micaela Martegani in NYC; Palazzo Delle Esposizioni Roma, Rome Italy; Billy Shire Fine Art, Los Angeles, CA; Victoria Memorial Hall, Calcutta, India; Contemporary Art Museum, Monfalcone, Italy; Rotterdam Art Fair, Netherlands; White Columns, NYC. His work is included in the collections of MART, Museo d'arte contemporanea, Rovereto, Italy; Mudima Foundation, Milano Italy and ENECO NV Collection, Amsterdam.

This year Nicola Verlato exhibited an installation of his paintings and sculpture at the 53rd Venice Biennale in the Italian Pavilion at the Arsenale, curated by Luca Beatrice and Beatrice Buscaroli.

CALEB WEINTRAUB

Born 1977, Trenton, New Jersey. Currently lives and works in Bloomington, Indiana.
www.calebweintraub.net

Caleb Weintraub received his BFA in 2000 from Boston University School for the Arts, Boston, MA and his MFA in 2003 from the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. Much of his work is an exploration of potential futures for humanity. His paintings revolve around a central narrative that depicts a world in which children have taken control and turned against the adults. Weintraub relies on humor, pop culture, and art historical imagery to frame these ongoing narratives.

He has had recent solo shows at Peter Miller Gallery, Chicago, IL; Jack the Pelican Presents, Brooklyn, NY; Projects Gallery, Philadelphia, PA; Bradley University, Peoria, IL; Axel Raben Gallery, New York; Galerie Swanstrom, Boston, MA and Redux Contemporary Art Gallery, Charleston, SC. His work was also exhibited at the 2008 Bridge Art Festival, Miami, FL (represented by Project Gallery, Philadelphia, PA; Peter Miller Gallery, Chicago, IL) and the 2008 Red Dot Fair in London, England and in NYC.

This year Weintraub was included in the group exhibition *1000 Days* at the Scion Art Center, Los Angeles, CA. This Fall he has a forthcoming solo show at Peter Miller Gallery, Chicago, IL and will be collaborating with artists Laura Ball and Laurie Hogan on a drawing that will be part of an Exquisite Corpse exhibition at the Renaissance Society, Chicago, IL. Weintraub is also one of several selected artists who will be contributing original works for a feature entitled *What A Mess* that will be published in the next upcoming issue of *Beautiful/Decay Magazine*.