

# LAWNDALE ART CENTER

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Lawndale Art Center

Presents

# The Big Show 2009

## Lawndale's Annual Open-Call, Juried Exhibition

*Houston, Texas* – Lawndale Art Center invites artists living within 100 miles of Houston to submit artworks for a chance to be included in its annual open-call, juried exhibition, *The Big Show*, and a shot at one of three cash prizes. This year's Guest Juror, Laura Fried, Assistant Curator, Contemporary Art Museum, St. Louis, will select the show and three award winners based on work submitted in person to Lawndale Art Center. Artists may submit up to three pieces of artwork along with a \$30 entry fee (\$25 for Lawndale members) on June 24 and 25, 2009. Jurying of the actual artwork will be conducted over two days. Works not selected for the show must be picked up by the artists on June 29 and 30, 2009. More information about *The Big Show* and artist entry forms can be found on our website, <http://www.lawndaleartcenter.org/events/bigshow2009.html>.

### Cash Prizes to be announced at the Opening Reception:

First Prize - \$1,250

Second Prize - \$1,000

Third Prize - \$750

### Opening Reception: Friday, July 10, 2009

6:30 - 8:30 pm

On view through August 8, 2009

Programs at Lawndale are supported in part by The National Endowment for the Arts, The Houston Arts Alliance through the Houston Museum District Association and City Initiatives Program, The Texas Commission on the Arts, Houston Endowment, The Brown Foundation, Inc., Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, The Cavnar Foundation, The Cullen Foundation, The Wortham Foundation, Inc., John M. O'Quinn, Cecily Horton, Ann W. Harithas, Jonathan and Barbara Day, Diana Hudson and Lee Kaplan, Anita and David Garten, Karen J. and David A. Sobotka, Daniel K. Dubrowski, Jenny and Mark Johnson, Samantha Schnee, H-E-B, Continental Airlines, Target, Art Colony Association, other contributors, memberships, benefit events and many volunteers.

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## ABOUT THE BIG SHOW

*The Big Show* is Lawndale Art Center's annual open-call, juried exhibition. Since the show's conception in 1984, it has become an important venue through which emerging and under-represented Houston area artists gain exposure. *The Big Show* was formerly the *East End Show*, sponsored by the East End Progress Association, at Lawndale's original location. In 2008 Lawndale received 1,014 submissions by 407 artists. Guest Juror Aram Moyashedi, Curator for LA><ART in Los Angeles, selected 95 works by 60 artists for the exhibition.

Each year Lawndale Art Center invites a different guest juror to select the work submitted by artists living within 100 miles of Houston. Artists are invited to bring up to three works of art, not previously shown in Houston, to Lawndale Art Center where the work is juried on-site for a chance to be included in the show and a shot at one of three cash prizes. Emerging artists selected for *The Big Show* have received gallery representation and greater exposure for their work as a result. Eileen Maxson, recipient of the Texas Prize in 2005 first exhibited her winning video in the Big Show 2003. First Prize in the 2003 Big Show went to Robert Pruitt whose work was included in the 2006 Whitney Biennial in New York City, NY.

## ABOUT THE GUEST JUROR

**Laura Fried** is the Assistant Curator of the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, where she recently organized British artist Carey Young's first monographic museum exhibition in the United States. A co-curator of exhibitions in the Main Galleries and The Front Room, Fried also oversees a number of ongoing exhibition programs at the Contemporary, including the Great Rivers Biennial, Flat Files and the Emerson Visiting Critics and Curators. Fried is a regular contributor to museum and gallery exhibition catalogs as well as regional publications, and she serves as Adjunct Lecturer in the Department of Art and Art History at the University of Missouri St. Louis. Fried is currently preparing a solo show with Los Angeles and Cambridge based artist/musician Stephen Prina to open in 2010.

<b>About Lawndale:</b>	Lawndale Art Center is a nonprofit alternative exhibition space dedicated to the presentation of contemporary art in all media, with an emphasis on the work of Houston area artists.
<b>For More Info:</b>	<a href="http://www.lawndaleartcenter.org">www.lawndaleartcenter.org</a> or <a href="mailto:askus@lawndaleartcenter.org">askus@lawndaleartcenter.org</a>
<b>Gallery Hours:</b>	Monday-Friday, 10-5; Saturday, 12-5; Closed Sunday
<b>Admission:</b>	Admission is free and open to the public
<b>Viewing Dates:</b>	This exhibition will open on Friday, July 10, 2009 and will remain on view through Saturday, August 8, 2009.
<b>Press Contact:</b>	Dennis Nance, 713-528-5858, <a href="mailto:dnance@lawndaleartcenter.org">dnance@lawndaleartcenter.org</a>

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