

LAWNDALE ART CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lawndale Art Center

Presents

Ritual Prototypes for the Afterlife – Dennis Harper

Ta Marmaruga – David Waddell & Kelly Ulcak

The Listening Post – Tim Brown

Silent Topographies – Brent Fogt

Houston, Texas – Lawndale Art Center presents four exhibitions **opening**

March 13, 2009, 6:30 – 8:30 pm, with artist talks beginning at **6 pm**. For the

sculpture installation ***Ritual Prototypes for the Afterlife***, **Dennis Harper**

transforms the John M. O'Quinn Gallery into a tomb within which monumental

archetypal artifacts representing the needs and desires of one traveling to the

next realm are prescriptively arranged. Artists **David Waddell** and **Kelly Ulcak**

present **Ta Marmaruga**, an experimental collaboration combining Ulcak's quirky narratives and drawing style with Waddell's abstracted and painterly stop-motion

animations, in the Mezzanine Gallery. In the Grace R. Cavnar Gallery **Tim**

Brown recreates a call center in his installation titled ***The Listening Post***. In the

3rd floor Project Space **Brent Fogt** presents detailed drawings of micro and

macro environments in ***Silent Topographies***. The exhibitions continue **through**

April 18, 2009.

Opening Reception March 13, 2009, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Artist talks at 6 pm

On view through April 18, 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., The Susan Vaughan Foundation, John M. O'Quinn, Cecily Horton, Ann W. Harithas, Jonathan and Barbara Day, Diana Hudson and Lee Kaplan, Andrew and Gretchen McFarland, Anita and David Garten, MetroNational, H-E-B, Continental Airlines, Target, Art Colony Association, other contributors, memberships, benefit events and many volunteers.

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About the Exhibitions

John M. O'Quinn Gallery

Dennis Harper

Ritual Prototypes for the Afterlife

Ritual Prototypes for the Afterlife is a sculpture installation meant to evoke the interior of a spacious tomb within which monumental archetypal artifacts representing the needs and desires of one traveling to the next realm are prescriptively arranged. The furnishings suggest ritual preparations of an aggressive and indulgent culture anticipating a hereafter purportedly lacking in the activities and amenities it has grown accustomed to in life—sex, entertainment and high-speed internet. Discrepancies between secular and religious expectations are examined by presenting them in the context of an ancient culture that made little distinction between secular and religious life. Ritual artifacts provide a common point of reference. The video component, while helping to establish the context of the installation, presents a narrative that examines the extent to which culture and circumstance shape the life of an individual.



Dennis Harper

American Idol, 2006

Paper, Fome-cor,
pvc.

144 x 54 x 66 inches

Dennis Harper is a Master of Fine Arts candidate in his final semester in the University of Houston School of Art Sculpture Program. Strategies, motifs and processes employed in his graduate work were developed while he was an undergraduate sculpture major at The University of Texas at Austin. Harper has received numerous grants, fellowships, scholarships and awards, and has exhibited in Austin, Houston, Dallas and Miami Beach. Prior to pursuing his BFA, he worked professionally in computer graphics, toy design and as a syndicated cartoonist. Dennis grew up in Los Angeles and attributes his aesthetic sensibilities to a thorough Southern California enculturation. His home is now in Austin, Texas and after attaining his MFA degree he plans to work in his studio there while pursuing a presence in Houston, Los Angeles and New York.

www.dennisleeharper.com



Dennis Harper

Ritual Prototypes for the Afterlife
(Sculpture installation)

Mezzanine Gallery

David Waddell & Kelly Ulcak

Ta Marmaruga

Ta Marmaruga, loosely translated from the ancient Greek, describes the dazzling things that an escaped prisoner encounters in *Allegory of the Cave* from Plato's *Republic*. Illustrated in this tale is the suggestion of seeing the enlightened truths lying under the apparent surface of things and the notion that education is not only the input of knowledge into empty minds but making people realize that which they already know. This project is an experimental collaboration; beginning with a simple premise and a literal narrative. Combining Ulcak's quirky narratives and drawing style with Waddell's abstracted and painterly stop-motions these two come together to attempt to tell a story about knowledge and knowing.



David Waddell & Kelly Ulcak

Tamarmaruga, 2008-2009

Stop-motion animation

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David Waddell is a native Houstonian who works in sculpture, installation and time-based projects. He received his MFA from the American University and a BFA from University of Texas, Austin. He has shown at Fotofest, Gavin Brown Enterprise, the CRL and the Arlington Art Center among others. His most extensive projects stem from his stop-motion animation experimentations. His interests reach beyond art establishments and into popular culture.

http://web.mac.com/hdmint/David_Waddell/David_Waddell.html

Kelly Ulcak spends her time between the dream world and the waking world trying to maintain a balance between the truths of the two. She received her MFA from the American University and a BFA from the University of Houston.

<http://web.mac.com/circledamage/iWeb/Kelly%20Ulcak/Kelly%20Ulcak.html>

Grace R. Cavnar Gallery

Tim Brown

The Listening Post

The Listening Post takes the viewer into the world of the contemporary call center, where the anonymous is personal and the personal is anonymous. Part illustrative documentation, part confessional, part sociological experiment, *The Listening Post* explores the contrast between the isolated and hermetic environment of the call center and the human and sometimes messy connection between caller and operator.

Tim Brown - Born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, 1968. As a child, worshiped Peanuts and Mad Magazine, collected trading cards and rode the first wave of arcade video games. Graduated from The University of Kansas with a Bachelors of Fine Arts in 1991. Inspired by Duchamp, quit painting for ten years. Moved to Austin, started painting again and became staff illustrator for Herbivore Magazine in 2003. Began showing and curating shows at Camp Fig gallery in 2005 and subsequently went on to found Okay Mountain with eight friends in 2006. Has shown in Austin, Tulsa, Los Angeles, Mexico City and Manila, among other places. Died in 2040, hopefully.

www.timlandia.net



Tim Brown
The Listening Post, 2009
Gouache on Paper
approx 48" x 96"

Project Space

Brent Fogt

Silent Topographies

Silent Topographies is an exhibition of highly detailed drawings that explore growth and metamorphosis at both the micro and macro levels. These drawings borrow from a wide range of visual imagery, including maps, aerial photography, plants and sixties-era psychedelic patterns. The exhibition invites viewers to explore these complex micro and macro worlds from vantage points both close and far.



Brent Fogt
Transplant, 2008
Ink on paper
60 x 60 inches

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Brent Fogt is an Assistant Professor of Art at Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi. Born in Ohio and raised in Texas, Brent creates intricate drawings and installations that reference maps, aerial photographs and microscopic organisms. He has exhibited his work both nationally and internationally. Most recently, Brent's work was featured in the 2007 Midwest edition of *New American Paintings*, an "exhibition in print" curated by Elizabeth Dunbar, Curator of the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art in Kansas City. He holds an MFA from the University of Michigan and a BFA from the University of Texas.

<http://www.flyingartists.com>

About Lawndale:	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.
Address:	4912 Main St., Houston, TX 77002
For More Info:	www.lawndaleartcenter.org or askus@lawndaleartcenter.org
Gallery Hours:	Monday-Friday, 10-5; Saturday, 12-5; Closed Sunday
Admission:	Free
Viewing Dates:	This exhibition will open on Friday, March 13, 2009 and will remain on view through Saturday, April 18, 2009.
Press Contact:	Dennis Nance, 713-528-5858, dnance@lawndaleartcenter.org

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