

LAWNDALE ART CENTER

4912 Main Street

Houston, TX 77002

713 528-5858

Fax 713 528-4140

askus@lawndaleartcenter.org

www.lawndaleartcenter.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact Dennis Nance

713-528-5858

dnance@lawndaleartcenter.org

Lawndale Art Center

Presents

Exhibitions on view May 7 – June 12, 2010

Opening Reception May 7, 2010, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Artist talks at 6 PM

Round 4 – Dawn Black, Nick Meriwether & David Waddell

Lawndale Artist Studio Program Exhibition

John M. O'Quinn Gallery

Spoiler – Ann Wood

Mezzanine Gallery

The Stand – Lily Cox-Richard

Grace R. Cavnar Gallery

Farming of The Future (Now Is The Only Thing That Is Real) – Malcolm Smith

Mary E. Bawden Sculpture Garden

Also on view...

SNACK PROJECTS featuring **Rachel Hecker**

Houston, Texas – Lawndale Art Center presents four exhibitions **opening May 7, 2010, 6:30 – 8:30 PM**, with artist talks beginning at **6 PM**. In the John M. O'Quinn Gallery, Lawndale Artist Studio Program participants **Dawn Black, Nick Meriwether, & David Waddell** conclude their nine month residency in the 3rd floor studios with the exhibition **Round 4**. In the Mezzanine Gallery, **Ann Wood** presents a site specific installation titled **Spoiler**. In the Grace R. Cavnar Gallery, **Lily Cox-Richard** exhibition **The Stand** features new work which explores the props used in neo-classical sculpture. In the Mary E. Bawden Sculpture Garden, **Malcolm Smith** installs an aquaponic garden for **Farming of the Future (Now Is The Only Thing That Is Real)**. The ongoing **SNACK PROJECTS** mini exhibition space will feature the work of **Rachel Hecker**. The exhibitions continue through **June 12, 2010**.

Please visit the upcoming events section of our website for more information on these exhibitions and other events we have planned for May!

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John M. O'Quinn Gallery

Round 4

Dawn Black, Nick Meriwether & David Waddell

Lawndale Artist Studio Program Exhibition

The Lawndale Artist Studio Program is part of Lawndale's ongoing commitment to support the creation of contemporary art by Gulf Coast area artists. With an emphasis on emerging practices, the program provides three artists with studio space on the third floor of the Lawndale Art Center at 4912 Main Street in the heart of Houston's Museum District. This exhibition features residents for the **fourth year** of the **Lawndale Artist Studio Program, Dawn Black, Nick Meriwether** and **David Waddell**.

Dawn Black's drawings question the nuances of identity politics and cultural norms by depicting scenes of meticulously drawn (in gouache, watercolor, and ink) figures that have been culled from the Internet and various periodicals. The intrinsic narratives created by the figure's groupings are intended to be layered and ambiguous, thus allowing the viewer to seriously consider the relationships depicted. While a resident at Lawndale, Black has been working on a series of works that examine both acts of violence and society's response to these abuses.

***Dawn Black** was born in Louisiana where she received a BFA from Louisiana State University. She earned both MA and MFA, specializing in Painting and Sculpture, from the University of Iowa School of Art and Art History. In 2000, she spent the summer exploring Venice, Italy while making prints at Scoula di Graphica, a printmaking studio on the Grand Canal. She has had solo exhibitions at Curator's Office, Washington DC, Kunstoffice, Berlin, Germany and Eve Drewelowe Gallery, Iowa City, IA. Her work has been included in numerous group exhibitions, including Pulse Miami 2008. Her work has been recently reviewed by the Washington Post, Art Papers magazine, and online at www.artinamerica.com and is in various private collections, notably the Zacharius collection. Currently, she is preparing for a March 2010 solo exhibition at Get This! Gallery in Atlanta, GA. She is represented by Curator's Office.*

Nick Meriwether presents a collection of work created while in residency at Lawndale. This new work spans a variety of themes and mediums. While in residence, Meriwether focused heavily on experimentation. Circuits and motors were valued as equal to the paintbrush. The result is a cloud of ideas expressed through sculptural forms such as unaccommodating robotics, shotgun blasts, spray paint and truck hitch testicles among other surprises.

***Nick Meriwether** received his BFA in painting from the University of Houston in 2006. He is a multidisciplinary artist, whose primary mediums include drawing, sculpture, video and computer software. He works professionally as a photographer's assistant, an art instructor and a graphic designer. He is a member of the local drawing collective Sketch Klubb.*



Dawn Black

Conceal Project #136, 2009

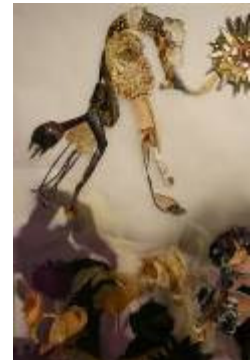
Gouache, watercolor and ink on paper
7.5" x 5.5",



Nick Meriwether

*Portrait of the Artist as a
Spray Paint Huffer, 2010*

Photographic Print
20x20inches



David Waddell

Untitled Collage, 2009

Spray-paint,
magazines, photocopy,
vellum
30"x 40"

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David Waddell presents his expanding world of creatures through new iPod pieces, wall drawings and collaged specimen studies. Waddell extracts components from printed material in our popular culture. Images are regenerated and brought to life through digital means. These cultural creatures camouflage into our modern landscape and mechanically perform human actions and natural deeds.

***David Waddell** is a Houston based artist who creates other worlds through stop-motion animation, small sculptures, and collaged drawings. Waddell's work has been included at Gavin Brown Enterprise, Lawndale Art Center, New York Fashion Week, Fotofest and Aurora Picture Show. He received his BFA from University of Texas and his MFA in painting from American University. Waddell is currently the Director of Media Studies at HSPVA.*

Mezzanine Gallery

Ann Wood

Spoiler

Since becoming one of the many unfortunate victims of Hurricane Ike, Ann Wood has been making pieces that are loosely about objects or events that can “get you” or “spoil” your day. A subtle undercurrent in her newest work has also been the idea of the food chain and how danger is relative: a bird is wonderful to look at unless of course you are a worm. While nature has always informed Wood's work, the idea of the food chain, looming danger in seemingly innocent situations, and the uneasiness that comes with that knowledge has begun to take on new meaning and increasing importance because of her own new-found sense of vulnerability.

Spoiler is a site-specific installation in the Mezzanine Gallery. Ann Wood creates most of her work using thread, foam, rubber, and fake objects like insects, hunting decoys, fruits, and flowers. The ideas of scrapbooking, sewing, “women's work,” and nurturing are important for Wood and give the piece a quirky sense of humor. “With *Spoiler* I am thinking about how ants, in their quickness to rebuild, represent ambition and drive...if you destroy their hill they begin to rebuild immediately. I am also thinking about ‘ants in the pants’ and how that silly, light-hearted saying is used to signify a general sense of uneasiness. And of course, the cliché of ants spoiling a picnic is an obvious reference. The word spoiler is also used to describe an ending that has been prematurely given away. That's important, too, as this installation includes a lot of clues as to the “ending” before you reach the Mezzanine Gallery.” – Ann Wood



Ann Wood

Naughty, 2004-2007

Thread, rubber, fake pears, sequins

Dimensions variable

***Ann Wood** was born in Sacramento, California and raised in the small, northern California city of Eureka. Wood earned a BFA in Art with an emphasis in painting from California State University, Chico. She then moved to Texas to earn an MFA in painting from the University of Texas at San Antonio. Her work has been exhibited across Texas in venues such as the Dallas Center for Contemporary Arts, Arthouse (formally known as the Jones Center for Contemporary Art), Women & Their Work, the Arlington Museum of Art, the University of Texas at San Antonio Art Gallery, and San Antonio College Visual Arts Center Gallery. Nationally, she has shown at ArtWorks! in New Bedford, Massachusetts; University Art Gallery at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth; and the Arkansas Art Center in Little Rock. Her work has been reviewed in a number publications including Artlies, Voices of Art, and The Dallas Morning News. She was also the recipient of a highly competitive grant from the Dallas Museum of Art in 2003.*

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Grace R. Cavnar Gallery

Lily Cox-Richard

The Stand

Lily Cox-Richard is interested in the historic and commemorative roles of sculpture, from public monument to personal grave marker. Her current work explores the power of icons and objects, and how this power shifts with time, context, and readability. *The Stand* is an exhibition of new work exploring the props used in neo-classical sculpture to shore up both structure and allegory. In Hiram Powers' 1872 marble *The Last of the Tribes*, a Native American woman flees western civilization. As she runs, the edges of her skirt flip as they brush past a tree stump. In Lily's sculptures, these props and trappings are freed from their roles of symbol and support and reinvested with new visibility and presence.



Lily Cox-Richard

The Stand, 2010

Plaster

70"x20"x20"

Lily Cox-Richard's sculpture often takes the form of vernacular icons such as frontier fences, towers, and monuments. She has been thinking about invisible forces such as electricity, wireless communication, and providence, and exploring how such forces manifest visibly when they reach a point of saturation.

Cox-Richard's work has been shown nationally and internationally. Solo exhibitions include Arlington Art Center, Arlington, VA; Terminal, Richmond, VA; Civilian Art Projects, Washington DC; and the Soap Factory, Minneapolis, MN. Group exhibitions include Kim Foster Gallery, New York, NY; Transformer Gallery, Washington DC; Southern Exposure, San Francisco, CA; Kompact Living Space, Berlin, Germany; and Area: Lugar de Proyectos, Caguas, Puerto Rico. Cox-Richard received her MFA from Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA in 2008 and her BFA from California College of the Arts, San Francisco, CA in 2001. She was awarded graduate fellowships from VCU in 2006 and 2007, from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in 2006 and is a 2007 Jacob K. Javits Commended Scholar. Last summer, Richard was awarded the Milos Chlupác Fellowship to attend the Stone Sculpture Symposium and live and work in a quarry near Salzburg, Austria. Cox-Richard is currently in her second year of the Core Program at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

lilycoxrichard.com

Malcolm Smith

Farming of The Future (Now Is The Only Thing That Is Real)

Aquaponics is a high-density food production arrangement that produces both plant matter and fish in one system with an absolute minimum of water usage. Very little power is required to operate the Aquaponic system. The lower part of the system houses the fish that create the fertilizer for the plants. The plants are contained in what is called a "grow bed" which sits above the fish tank. A single water pump propels nutrient rich water from the fish tank to the grow bed(s). Plants become a natural filter as they absorb nourishment from fish waste, reducing or eliminating the water's toxicity for the aquatic life while the water fills the plant container. Once the plant container is full a device known as an "auto siphon" drains sparkling water effortlessly back to the fish tank using only the power of gravity. No external power is needed for the auto siphon to operate. The water, now clean, is returned to the marine animal environment and the cycle continues.



Malcolm Smith

Fish Tank & Grow Beds

Aquaponics prototype

Mary E. Bawden Sculpture Garden

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Aquaponic systems do not discharge or exchange water. The systems rely on the natural relationship between the aquatic animals and the plants to maintain the environment. Water is only added to replace water loss from absorption by the plants, and evaporation into the air.

*Born in New York, United States, **Malcolm Alexander Smith** began studying science under Dr. Volbricht in Buffalo, New York. There he learned to apply his imagination to the world of science and art using discarded and recycled materials. In 1980 he relocated to Houston and became intimately involved with the nature of the environment while exploring the incredible diversity of Texas with her impressive landscapes and vibrant wildlife. Most recently, Smith has been deeply involved with expanding his knowledge in organic gardening, mainly using the system of Aquaponics, which effectively produces fish as well as vegetables, herbs and fruit. Through the exploration of life and science, Smith has become more interested in projects that involve community. Likewise he is looking to broaden the scope of his work by the study of Fine & Not So Fine Arts.*

Also On View...

Snack Projects featuring Rachel Hecker

Snack Projects is a miniature and portable art space, a "gallery" measuring 11" x 20" x 13", organized by artists Michael Guidry and Robert Ruello. Snack Projects will feature the work of both local and regional artists throughout the 2009-2010 exhibition season at Lawndale Art Center.

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@lawndalwartcenter.org
Gallery Hours:	Monday-Friday, 10-5; Saturday, 12-5; Closed Sunday
Admission:	Free
Viewing Dates:	This exhibition will open on Friday, March 12, 2010 and will remain on view through Saturday, April 17, 2010.
Press Contact:	Dennis Nance, 713-528-5858, dnance@lawndaleartcenter.org

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 M. Hudson and Lee Kaplan, Anita and David Garten, Mary and Roy Cullen, Karen J. and David A. Sobotka, Daniel K. Dubrowski, Jenny and Mark Johnson, Andrew C. Schirrmeister III, Samantha Schnee, Continental Airlines, Target, Art Colony Association, other contributors, memberships, benefit events and many volunteers.