

# LAWNDALE ART CENTER

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Lawndale Art Center

Presents

**Exhibitions on view April 22 – June 4, 2011**

**Opening Reception April 22, 2011, 6:30 - 8:30 PM**

**Artist talks at 6 PM**

***MEASURED*** – Hillerbrand+Magsamen, Daniel McFarlane & Anthony Thompson Shumate  
Lawndale Artist Studio Program Exhibition  
John M. O'Quinn Gallery

***Walpurgis Afternoon*** – Marc Bell & Jim Woodring  
Curated by Robert Boyd  
Mezzanine Gallery

***Into the Sunset*** – Leigh Merrill  
Grace R. Cavnar Gallery

***In Order to be Safe*** – Carmen Flores  
Project Space

*Also on view...*

**Snack Projects** featuring Cody VanderKaay

*Houston, Texas* – Lawndale Art Center presents four exhibitions **opening April 22, 2011, 6:30 – 8:30 PM**, with artist talks beginning at **6 PM**. In the John M. O'Quinn Gallery, Lawndale Artist Studio Program artists group exhibition ***MEASURED*** features the work of **Hillerbrand+Magsamen, Daniel McFarlane** and **Anthony Thompson Shumate**. In the Mezzanine Gallery, **Robert Boyd** curates and exhibition of cartoonists **Marc Bell** and **Jim Woodring** for the exhibition ***Walpurgis Afternoon*** including a performance by Woodring the night of the opening. In the Grace R. Cavnar Gallery, **Leigh Merrill's** photography exhibition ***Into the Sunset*** includes digitally constructed scenes of North Texas. In the Project Space, **Carmen Flores** drawings explore violence in today's culture referencing personal safety tutorials for the exhibition ***In Order to be Safe...*** The **SNACK PROJECTS** gallery will feature the work of **Cody VanderKaay**. The exhibitions continue through **June 4, 2011**.

In addition to the exhibitions, Lawndale will present a performance by Daniel McFarlane and his band **Daniel and the Thunderheads** on **Saturday, April 30, 2011 at 2:30PM**. **Hillerbrand+Magsamen** will present a screening of the documentary film by Brett Plymale, *A Chemical Reaction: The Story of a True Green Revolution*, on the lawn at Lawndale on **May 6, 2011 at 8:00PM**.

**-MORE-**

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John M. O'Quinn Gallery

## Hillerbrand+Magsamen, Daniel McFarlane and Anthony Thompson Shumate *MEASURED*

*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 Lawndale Art Center at 4912 Main Street in the heart of Houston's Museum District. This exhibition features residents for the **fifth year** of the **Lawndale Artist Studio Program, Hillerbrand+Magsamen** (Stephan Hillerbrand and Mary Magsamen), **Daniel McFarlane** and **Anthony Thompson Shumate**.

**Hillerbrand+Magsamen's** videos, photographs and installations reinterpret the people, activities and objects of their everyday life and engage the edge between the heroic and tragic. They navigate perceptions of identity, emotion and family within a uniquely American subjectivity.

Their experimental short video, *Elevated Landscape*, shot on location at Lawndale, looks at suburban lawns as identity for families as well as the social and environmental impact. *House/hold* is a photographic series of portraits of the artist's family set in surreal settings and interactions.

**Daniel McFarlane** will exhibit a collection of abstract paintings completed during residency at Lawndale. McFarlane's work explores color space and highlights the relationship between improvisation and control. His paint forms create dynamic tension and balance, as he develops a physical 3D plane of illusion within the 2D picture field.



**Anthony Thompson Shumate**  
From the series *MEASURED*, 2011

**Anthony Thompson Shumate** explores the measurements imposed and created by mundane objects and their influence on how individuals are viewed for the exhibition *MEASURED*. The works are created through analog translations of drawings that are filtered through a digital medium. The images are 1:1 scale drawings of "tools" that measure an individual through the prism of social norms and expectations. From a wedding ring to a vibrator to a house, individuals relate and equate their stature and station based on what or how they use the items. The work is a mechanical and methodical representation of this process done so in a digital-analog vocabulary.



**Hillerbrand+Magsamen**  
*Diana*, 2010  
Archival Inkjet Print  
24x30



**Daniel McFarlane**  
*Aqua Quartz II*, 2010  
Acrylic on panel  
48" x 36"

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Mezzanine Gallery

**Marc Bell & Jim Woodring**

***Walpurgis Afternoon***

**Curated by Robert Boyd**

Some artists record the world, some interpret it, and some distort it. A few, like Jim Woodring and Marc Bell, create their own worlds. Woodring's world, the Unifactor, features Frank, a cat-like cartoon naïf, whose pets, Pupshaw and Pushpaw, are his fearlessly loyal protectors. The other characters in the Unifactor form a moral universe, where mysterious jivas—a visible representation of a soul—intervene in the daily lives of the characters. All of this takes place in a dreamlike landscape with architecture that is a cross between orientalist fantasias and elaborate wedding cakes. Woodring's art relies on an intense level of craft, and his love of nib penmanship lead him to craft a six foot nib pen with the intent taking what is usually an intensely private act—drawing with pen and ink—and turning it into a public performance.

Mark Bell's world-creation leaks freely between his comics and his paintings. Bell's world is one where "people" and buildings are equally alive (and have feet), where visual information is densely stacked. His work seems to draw equally on Philip Guston and E.C. Segar (the creator of Popeye). His world is genial and inviting, but requires close attention. Bell's art is the kind that demands the viewer stick her face right up next to it; details are as important (if not more so) as total pieces.

Woodring and Bell represent a certain strain in modern comics—a world of fantasy influenced by childrens books, pre-war newspaper comic strips and illustration, and contemporary art. They are artists who are as comfortable in the gallery as on the page. They are artists who happen to do comics.

*-Robert Boyd*

Grace R. Cavnar Gallery

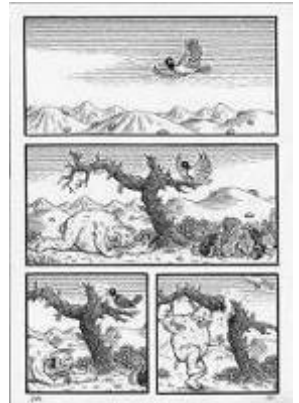
**Leigh Merrill**

***Into the Sunset***

Leigh Merrill's work is driven by an interest in regionalism and the cultural signifiers of particular places. She has photographed the places where she has lived, motivated by curiosity about the architecture that surrounds us and how it reflects larger ideas of beauty, class, romanticism and perfection.

The works in the exhibition, *Into the Sunset*, are digitally constructed scenes of North Texas. While exploring a city or neighborhood, Merrill creates thousands of individual photographs and then digitally assembles and re-assembles these photographs to create new images. Each image is typically made from tens to hundreds of different photographs. At first these composited images might look plausible; but closer inspection reveals that they are fabricated.

Merrill explores the ways in which our built environments are themselves composites of different architectural styles and cultures. These photographs range from urban to rural scenes reminding us of how the American West has been romanticized and shaped through movies and photographs.



**Jim Woodring**

*Weathercraft page 20,*  
2010

Pen and ink on Bristol  
paper

7.25" x 10.5"



**Leigh Merrill**

*Justice, 2010*

Archival pigment print  
18 x 30"

**-MORE-**

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Project Space  
**Carmen Flores**

## ***In Order to be Safe...***

Carmen Flores' drawings explore the proliferation of violence in the culture and its impact on the human psyche. After being in a violent environment for a long period of time, people change behaviors and activities in order to be safe. The acceptance and normalization of violence is part of the process of desensitization in our society. The imagery in Flores' work is drawn from personal safety tutorials, police reports and press accounts of violence drawn in graphite and chalk. The ephemeral quality of chalk speaks of the physical vulnerability of violence and, the remains of erased layers allude to the remembrance of victims.



**Carmen Flores**  
*Encounter* (detail), 2010  
Graphite, watercolor and thread/canvas  
49x99x1 inches

## **Additional Programs at Lawndale during April and May:**

**April 30, 2011**

### **Lawndale Studio Artists Gallery Talk**

1PM

Join Lawndale Artist Studio Program resident artists Hillerbrand+Magsamen, Daniel McFarlane and Anthony Thompson Shumate for an informal gallery talk on Saturday, April 30, 2011 at 1PM. Their group exhibition, *MEASURED*, will be on view in the John M. O'Quinn Gallery.

**April 30, 2011**

### **Daniel and the Thunderheads**

2:30PM

Come and see the metaphoric lion and tiger fight really hard. Prepare yourselves for untold fairytales and mysterious adventures. Daniel and the Thunderheads will give a special one-time performance at Lawndale Art Center, Saturday, April 30, 2011 at 2:30PM. Beverages provided by Saint Arnold Brewing Company.

**May 6, 2011**

### **Film Screening**

8:00PM

*A Chemical Reaction: The Story of a True Green Revolution*

A Documentary film by Brett Plymale

Presented by Hillerbrand+Magsamen

[\*A Chemical Reaction\*](#), is a 70 minute feature documentary movie that tells the story of one of the most powerful and effective community initiatives in the history of North America. It started with one lone voice in 1984. Dr. June Irwin, a dermatologist, noticed a connection between her patients' health conditions and their exposure to chemical pesticides and herbicides. With relentless persistence she brought her concerns to town meetings to warn her fellow citizens that the chemicals they were putting on their lawns posed severe health risks and had unknown side effects on the environment.

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For more information on upcoming exhibitions and programs, please visit  
<http://www.lawndaleartcenter.org>.

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<b>About Lawndale:</b>	Lawndale Art Center develops local contemporary artists and the audience for their art. Lawndale is dedicated to the presentation of contemporary art with an emphasis on work by Houston artists. Lawndale presents exhibitions, lectures and events, and offers an annual residency program to further the creative exchange of ideas among Houston's diverse artistic, cultural and student communities.
<b>Address:</b>	4912 Main St., Houston, TX 77002
<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>	Free
<b>Viewing Dates:</b>	This exhibition will open on Friday, April 22, 2011 and will remain on view through Saturday, June 4, 2011.
<b>Press Contact:</b>	Dennis Nance, 713-528-5858, <a href="mailto:dnance@lawndaleartcenter.org">dnance@lawndaleartcenter.org</a>

Programs at Lawndale are supported in part by The National Endowment for the Arts, The City of Houston through the Houston Museum District Association, 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, Daniel K. Dubrowski, Felvis/David R. Graham, Jenny and Mark Johnson, Andrew C. Schirrmeister III, Samantha Schnee, Continental Airlines, Target, Art Colony Association, other contributors, memberships, benefit events and many volunteers.

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