

LAWNDALE ART CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Lawndale Art Center Presents

Round 3 – Kevin Curry, Amber Eagle & El Franco Lee II
Lawndale Artist Studio Program Exhibition

Washington Avenue: Forgotten to Gentrified – Robert Sennhauser
regarding discards – Stephanie Martz

Out of Site – Noah Simblist

Houston, Texas – Lawndale Art Center presents four exhibitions **opening May 8, 2009, 6:30 – 8:30 pm**, with artist talks beginning at **6 pm**. In the John M. O'Quinn, Lawndale Artist Studio Program participants **Kevin Curry, Amber Eagle and El Franco Lee II** conclude their nine month studio residency at Lawndale with the exhibition **Round 3**. In the Mezzanine Gallery, **Robert Sennhauser's** exhibition **Washington Avenue: Forgotten to Gentrified** presents an ethnographic study of Houston's Washington Avenue. In the Grace R. Cavnar Gallery, **Stephanie Martz** collects the traces of individuals left in books, clothing and abandoned houses in her exhibition **regarding discards**. In the Project Space, **Noah Simblist** investigates the religious, political, and nationalist symbolism inherent in ideas of home, land and borders in the context of the Israeli-Palestine conflict in the exhibition **Out of Site**. The exhibitions continue **through June 13, 2009**.

Opening Reception May 8, 2009, 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Artist talks at 6 pm

On view through June 13, 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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John M. O'Quinn Gallery

ROUND 3

Kevin Curry, Amber Eagle and El Franco Lee II

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 **third year** of the **Lawndale Artist Studio Program, Kevin Curry, Amber Eagle and El Franco Lee II.**



Kevin Curry
Housewarming, 2007-2009
Ongoing quilted house
covering project
11' x 115'



Amber Eagle
Lady of transportation, 2008
mixed media, semi truck, car
parts
12' x 12' x 12', 2008



El Franco Lee II
DJ Screw in Heaven, 2008
Acrylic on Canvas
36" X 48"

Amber Eagle received her BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design and her MFA from California College of Art. She has spent the past ten years working and exhibiting in Mexico. A recipient of McColl Center for the arts residency, Headlands Center for the Arts, winner of the 2008 Art Car Parade and a Core Fellowship. She is from Charlotte, North Carolina.
<http://www.ambereagle.org>

Born in Mt. Kisco, New York in 1960 **Kevin Curry** was raised overseas where he was exposed to multiple countries and cultures (Puerto Rico, South Africa, Australia) before returning to the United States in 1978. He attended the Center for Creative Studies in Detroit MI, where he earned his BFA in Graphic Design in 1983. After working as an Art Director in New York and Philadelphia, Curry started his own Graphic Design business in 1991, specializing in digital editorial illustrations. In 2008, Curry received his MFA from the Sculpture program at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, IL. In the past two years, Curry's work has been exhibited nationally at the Target Gallery, National Exhibition Space of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, Alexandria, VA; the University of Missouri, Columbus, MO; White Flags Project Gallery, St. Louis, MO; and Cedarhurst Center for the Arts, Mt Vernon, IL; along with a recent solo exhibition in the University of Central Arkansas' Baum Gallery in Conway, AR.
<http://www.kcurry.com>

El Franco Lee II is a current resident of Houston, Texas as well as a native son. He received his Bachelor of Fine Arts in painting from the University of Houston in 2007. His recent solo and juried exhibitions include, "Gift of the Spirit" (A partnership of JPMorgan Chase and Art League Houston); along with exhibitions at Project Row Houses-Houston, Texas; Angstrom Gallery,

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Dallas, Texas; Siebert Brandford Shank & Co., LLC Public Finance Summit; Napa Valley, California; Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston, Texas; Romo Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia; G Gallery, Houston, Texas; University of Houston Project Gallery; Blaffer Gallery, Houston, Texas; Yale University, Annual Art Barn Exhibit, Norfolk, Connecticut; and Diverse Works Art Space, Houston, Texas.

Mezzanine Gallery

Robert Sennhauser

Washington Avenue: Forgotten to Gentrified

Robert Sennhauser's exhibition for the Mezzanine Gallery is the result of the first year and an a half of a three-year ethnographic study; photographs and edited, taped interviews of Houston's Washington Avenue, and surrounding area, as it is gentrified. Presented as a "flow chart" Sennhauser photographed Washington Avenue, from Houston Avenue to T.C. Jester. His documentation consists of overlapping photographs plus additional photographs, interviews, and information including street names, historical notes, physical changes and individuals, past and present, connected to specific locations.



Robert Sennhauser

Town Home construction in the shadow of Downtown Houston, 07/24/2008

Inkjet Photograph

5" x 7"

Robert Sennhauser was born in NYC. He received an MFA in Printmaking from Ohio University, Athens, Ohio. His work has been widely exhibited and has received numerous grants, including an NEA Fellowship in Photography and six Polaroid Artists Support Grants for collaborative work with Klaus Schnitzer. Having taught art at universities for 31 years, he now lives and works in Houston, TX. The New York Foundation for the Arts accepted *Washington Avenue: Forgotten to Gentrified* for Fiscal Sponsorship in 2009.

Grace R. Cavnar Gallery

Stephanie Martz

regarding discards

Stephanie Martz's work deals with discarded traces of individuals. Through signatures and notes individuals leave their marks on books that are then discarded. Clothing becomes stained and then lines the rows of hanging clothes in second hand stores. Interiors of abandoned house destroy themselves like a disease does to the body it inhabits. What was once prized begins to decay, becomes stained, is no longer relevant to an individual's identity, and is left for another (and becomes a part of another's history). Everything is interconnected. We are connected through genes and diseases just like we are through another's printed words in a book, and items and wallpaper left behind for decay.



Stephanie Martz

Untitled from the

Withdrawn Series, 2008

Ink and glue on paper

8" x 5 1/2"

Stephanie Martz received a BFA from Art Center College of Design in Pasadena California and a MFA from California Institute of the Arts in Valencia California. She moved to Houston in 2002 to attend the artist residency *The Core Program* through the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. She teaches full time at the Glassell School of Art, occasionally tries her hand at writing something poetic and is quietly and steadily amassing her own private library to be announced sometime in the not so near future.

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Project Space
Noah Simblist
Out of Site

“Out of site is about the architecture of conflict in Israel-Palestine. In the summer of 2008, I participated in a program run by the Israel Committee Against Housing Demolitions (ICAH), which gathers international activists to rebuild Palestinian homes destroyed by the Israeli government. While living and working in the village of Anata, I came to see that a house being destroyed and rebuilt connects the practice of everyday life with much larger historical and ideological currents. As a result, the symbolism of the construction or destruction of architecture has enormous symbolic weight. Identity becomes interwoven between the layers of building blocks and rubble, which quickly become more abstract than their mere utility.

There is a wall or separation barrier that is being constructed through Anata. Dividing two national identities and cultures within one socio-economic fabric, this wall has been compared by its critics to its predecessors in South Africa, Warsaw and Berlin. These powerful allusions speak to the depth that this wall cuts into the landscape and to the collective psyche of its inhabitants.

Out of Site investigates the religious, political, and nationalist symbolism inherent in ideas of home, land, and borders. *Out of Site* speaks to the specters of diaspora and exile that haunt the landscape of Israel-Palestine, a site which seems out of reach, always bathed in its utopian and messianic mythology.” – Noah Simblist

Noah Simblist is an artist and writer living in Dallas, TX. His work explores iconography that deals with the political role of the artist, the concept of forgiveness, Christian Zionism and the idea of home in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. An Assistant Professor of Art at SMU, he won the 2007 Moss/Chumley award and has written for ART LIES and Art Papers magazines as well as Glasstire.com, Zerodegreesart.com and ...might be good. Recent projects include co-editing issue #56 of Art Lies magazine around the theme of collectivism and *Collecting and Collectivity*, a series of lectures, panel discussions and exhibitions that questioned the relationship between radicality and the market in the contemporary avant-garde.



Noah Simblist
Breach, 2008
Graphite on paper
42 x 79 inches

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, May 8, 2009 and will remain on view through Saturday, June 13, 2009.
Press Contact:	Dennis Nance, 713-528-5858, dnance@lawndaleartcenter.org