

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

Transcendental Smoothie – Mary Magsamen and Stephan Hillerbrand

What's in a Line? – Judith Cottrell and Alex Lopez

The Grand Tour, Texas – Omar Vera

(Re)Vision: A Preservation of Houston's Inner Loop – Shannon Duncan

Houston, Texas – Lawndale Art Center presents four exhibitions **opening August 22, 6:30 – 8:30 pm**, with artist talks beginning at **6 pm**. The collaborative husband and wife team of **Mary Magsamen** and **Stephan Hillerbrand** transform the John M. O'Quinn gallery with balloon projections in their installation ***Transcendental Smoothie***. In the Mezzanine Gallery, **Judith Cottrell** and **Alex Lopez** use the space to explore the use of line with their exhibit ***What's in a Line?***. In the Grace R. Cavnar Gallery, **Omar Vera** documents his travels through Texas to cities whose names derive from European capitals in ***The Grand Tour, Texas***. For her installation in the Project Space, **Shannon Duncan** documented changes to Houston in ***(Re)Vision: A Preservation of Houston's Inner Loop***. The exhibitions continue **through September 27, 2008**.

Opening Reception August 22, 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Artist talks at 6 pm

On view through September 27, 2008

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

Transcendental Smoothie

Mary Magsamen and Stephan Hillerbrand

Transcendental Smoothie is a three part video installation by the collaborative husband and wife team of Magsamen + Hillerbrand. Through a playful and unexpected use of materials and camera viewpoints, Magsamen + Hillerbrand transform the John M. O'Quinn Gallery into a kaleidoscope world of cookie dough, vultures and monumental peanut butter and jelly sandwiches that bring questions and ideas of perception, identity, family and everyday pressures. "Transcendental" refers to Kant's theory that our experience of things is about how they appear to us, but not about those things as they are in and of themselves. "Smoothie" refers to our use of food and everyday objects and the blending of many items to make something delicious.



**Mary Magsamen and
Stephan Hillerbrand**

Kneding, 2008

Video still

Dimensions variable

Image courtesy of the artist

Mezzanine Gallery

What's in a Line?

Judith Cottrell and Alex Lopez

Alex Lopez and Judith Cottrell approach their exhibition with a simple question, what is the purpose of a gallery? The purpose of a "gallery" is considered by many as a place to exhibit works of art. Their answers lead them to examine the gallery as a finite area of space with interesting, challenging and complex architectural situations. "Would the gallery space be defined by the work or would we propose the question that perhaps the space itself could be the artwork?" Through an investigation and visual documentation of the Mezzanine Gallery they were able to determine that the space was in fact the challenge and "line of sight", or point of perspective, would be one of their primary focuses. Their exhibition will combine independent and collaborative *sculptural drawings* that involve an investigation of methodology, approach, and comment on how *line* and space can be articulated, integrated, viewed, and accessed. Through installation and various media, Cottrell and Lopez challenge the modes of traditional genres with a new consideration for *line*.



Judith Cottrell

Column 1, 2008

Gel ink pen, latex paint, wood, paper
20"H x 2.5"W x 2.5"D (column), 11"x11" (paper)
Image courtesy of the artist



Alex Lopez

Untitled, 2008

MDF, Aluminum, vinyl
30"H x 1"D x (variable widths)
Image courtesy of the artist

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Grace R. Cavnar Gallery
The Grand Tour, Texas
Omar Vera

Inspired by the 'Grand Tour' collections of Europe, Vera's *The Grand Tour, Texas* is a grouping of charcoal and ink drawings and terracotta maquettes executed on site in the small and somewhat obscure Texas cities that take their names from iconic European meccas: Paris (311 miles from Houston), Florence (197 miles from Houston), and Roma (383 miles from Houston). The subject of these studies is the architecture, public artwork, and other local symbols whose role it is to fill the hopelessly large art-historical shoes of their namesakes. "Despite the implicit cynicism in undertaking this project, I have found that there is a tangible sincerity in the act of traveling to and venerating these locales not usually ennobled by the rhetoric of 'The Grand Tour', "explains Vera.



Omar Vera
Engorged Bitch. Roma, Texas, 2008
charcoal and conte on paper
18" x 12"
Image courtesy of the artist

Project Space
(Re)Vision: A Preservation of Houston's Inner Loop
Shannon Duncan

Shannon Duncan has a compulsion to collect and photograph discarded and otherwise overlooked objects, reviving their once precious nature by excessively archiving and/or documenting what she finds. For her installation in the Project Space, Duncan extends her interest in abandoned property to include real estate. Between January 1st, 2008 and June 30th, 2008, Duncan synced her life in tandem with the City of Houston's on-line permits website, then visited residential properties scheduled for demolition within the inner loop. She captured these fugitive places using (the now discontinued) Polaroid film, and retrieved what personal items she found on site. (Re)Vision encapsulates her six-month project, with the collection of images gridded off by zip code and accompanied by selected found objects. <http://www.communitywalk.com/revisionhouston>



Shannon Duncan
4701 Bristol St. 4/25/08
Instant Color Print
4"x4.1"

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.
For More Info:	www.lawndaleartcenter.org or askus@lawndaleartcenter.org
Gallery Hours:	Monday-Friday, 10-5; Saturday, 12-5; Closed Sunday
Admission:	Admission is free and open to the public
Viewing Dates:	This exhibition will open on Friday, August 22, 2008 and will remain on view through Saturday, September 27, 2008.
Press Contact:	Dennis Nance, 713-528-5858, dnance@lawndaleartcenter.org

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