

# LAWNDALE ART CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Lawndale Art Center Presents

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## Exhibitions on view August 21- September 26, 2009

Opening Reception August 21, 2009, 6:30 - 8:30 PM  
Artist talks at 6 PM

### *Lawndale Art Center 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibition –*

Curated by Clint Willour

Work by Seth Alverson, Dawolu Jabari Anderson, Chuy Benitez, Elaine Bradford, Emily Sloan and Mark Schatz

*Me, Mine, and not Yours* – Joe Ives and Jahjehan Bath Ives

*Paper or Plastic?*– Nathaniel Donnett

*The Green™ cyber web* – Adela Andea

*Lawndale from 1979* - Lecture by James Surls in conjunction with the Lawndale Art Center 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibition on Thursday, August 27<sup>th</sup> at 6PM

Houston, Texas – Lawndale Art Center presents four exhibitions **opening August 21, 2009, 6:30 – 8:30 PM**, with artist talks beginning at **6 PM**. In the John M. O'Quinn Gallery, **Clint Willour's** curated exhibition in honor of Lawndale Art Center's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary presents work by **Seth Alverson, Dawolu Jabari Anderson, Chuy Benitez, Elaine Bradford, Emily Sloan and Mark Schatz** in the *Lawndale Art Center 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibition*. In the Mezzanine Gallery, **Joe Ives** and **Jahjehan Bath Ives** explore domestic politics and isolation tactics in the installation *Me, Mine, and not Yours*. In the Grace R. Cavnar Gallery, **Nathaniel Donnett** references hierarchies within the African American community in his installation *Paper or Plastic?*. In the Project Space, **Adela Andea's** kinetic installation investigates the dilemma of making consumer electronics an environmentally sustainable industry in the installation *The Green™ cyber web*. The exhibitions continue **through September 26, 2009**.

In conjunction with Lawndale Art Center's 30th Anniversary, Lawndale Art Annex founder **James Surls**, presents *Lawndale from 1979*, a talk on the origins of Lawndale, its unique place in Houston's art community and its relevance today on **Thursday, August 27, 2009 at 6 PM at Lawndale Art Center**.

DANIEL ADAME  
CHUY BENITEZ  
AMY BLUMROSEN  
FRANCES BOSWELL  
ELAINE BRADFORD  
SEAN CARROLL  
RACHEL COOK  
SASHA DELA  
SHARON ENGELSTEIN  
KAREN FARBER  
MEREDITH R. GOLDSMITH  
J HILL  
RACHEL HOOPER  
JIM JARD  
LAUREN KELLEY  
JULIA ABBOTT KOIVUMAA  
NICOLE LAURENT  
DOUG LAWING  
ROBERT RUELLO  
MARK SCHATZ  
KAREN J. SOBOTKA  
CHRISTINA SOLIS  
KANEEM SMITH  
KEIJIRO SUZUKI  
M'KINA TAPSCOTT  
MIRI WILKINS  
ELEANOR WILLIAMS  
KATHERINE YZAGUIRRE

EMERITUS  
GRACIE CAVNAR  
TIM CROWLEY  
JONATHAN DAY  
ANN HARITHAS  
CECILY HORTON  
KAROL KREYMER  
MARSHAL LIGHTMAN  
BROOKE STROUD  
JAMES SURLS

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Programming

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Administrative Director

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Education and Volunteer  
Coordinator

JOANNA BONNER  
Graphic Design Intern

BRANDI SCOTT  
Gallery Attendant

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John M. O'Quinn Gallery

## **Lawndale Art Center 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibition**

**Curated by Clint Willour**

Work by Seth Alverson, Dawolu Jabari Anderson, Chuy Benitez  
Elaine Bradford, Emily Sloan and Mark Schatz

Clint Willour takes a look at the last five years, since Lawndale's 25th Anniversary Show and gathers new work from artists who have shown in each of Lawndale's four galleries, as well as from *The Big Show* and the Artist Studio Program. Artists in the exhibition include Seth Alverson, Dawolu Jabari Anderson, Chuy Benitez, Elaine Bradford, Emily Sloan and Mark Schatz.



*Clint Willour has been an arts professional for over 35 years. From 1973 – 1989 he served as director of a commercial gallery in Houston. Since 1990 he has been the curator of the Galveston Arts Center, serving additionally as Executive Director from 1995 – 2005. He has curated over 400 exhibitions for the institution. In addition he curates and serves as a juror for numerous commercial and non-profit organizations throughout the United States. He currently serves on four committees at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; the Board of Directors and two committees at the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft; the advisory board and the exhibition committee at the Houston Center for Photography; the travelling and changing exhibitions committees of the Holocaust Museum Houston; the board of the William A. Graham Artists' Emergency Fund; the art board of Fotofest Houston; the system wide art acquisitions committee of the University of Houston; the Civic Art and Design Committee of the Houston Arts Alliance, and the Art Advisory Committee of Discovery Green. He was given the Arts Professional Legend Award by the Dallas Contemporary Art Center in 2001 and was named the Texas Art Patron of the Year 2007 by Art League Houston.*

Mezzanine Gallery

## **Joe Ives and Jahjehan Bath Ives**

***Me, Mine, and not Yours***

"I've grown tired of your company, I wish you would go away, I need a moment to myself, could you please be quiet." After years of living with someone these are things that we often think when our "other" walks into the room. What if we were no longer polite, what if domestic politics took over our house, what if we could simply employ the tactics of our childhood to gain that needed isolation? For their exhibition at Lawndale Joe & Jahjehan Bath Ives present an installation of sculptures and videos for the Mezzanine Gallery created by their antiheros who playfully make suggestions and recommendations of isolationist tactics that anyone can employ to gain some alone time.



Joe Ives & Jahjehan Bath Ives  
*Building Barriers: Dining*, 2007  
Video still

*Joe Ives was a recipient of a 2005 CACHH grant and a 2004 Artadia grant and has shown his works in a number of group exhibitions, including Places in Space, AKA Gallery, Rome (2006); Woods, Negative Space Gallery, Houston (2005); Home is Where, Project Row Houses, Houston (2004); Faculty Show, Glassell School of Art, Houston (2004); Texas Prime, DiverseWorks Art Space, Houston (2004); and It's a Trend, Not a Fad, Aurora Picture Show, Houston (2003).*

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**Jahjehan Bath Ives** received her MFA from Tyler School of Art in 2007 and her BFA from University of the Arts, Philadelphia in 1999. Most recently her work has been exhibited at Art Brussels in Belgium, AKA Gallery in Rome, Mackey Gallery in Houston, the Islip Museum in New York, and Temple Gallery in Philadelphia. Awards include an NEA grant for a residency at Women's Studio Workshops in Rosendale, New York, the Kimbrough award from the Dallas Museum of Art, and a development grant from Creative Capital and Diverse Works. She was born in 1977 in Doylestown, PA and she currently lives in a little row house in Philadelphia with her husband Joe, son Gavril and dog Stanley.

Grace R. Cavnar Gallery

**Nathaniel Donnett**

***Paper or Plastic?***

Nathaniel Donnett is interested in the study of human behavior, its psychological and emotional impact on society and how society affects the collective and individual consciousness of African Americans and African American culture. He addresses social issues and the human condition through observational analysis, narratives, codes, and signifiers. Donnett uses traditional and non-traditional materials to reconstruct the meaning of these materials and objects while shifting through frameworks of time references and fluctuating dual meanings of communication.

Donnett's Plastic or Paper series references the historic brown paper bag test that was used to separate darker and lighter skinned African Americans, thus creating a sense of division, neglect, ostracism and envy. This series explores its history and the effect of the test, the social residue, and its impact in contemporary society. A hierarchy was created within the African American community with issues of hair texture, skin tone, and the acceptance or rejection of African features as it relates to beauty. This work is also a metaphor that uses art as a healing agent by analyzing and confronting personal baggage.



Nathaniel Donnett  
*Paper or Plastic Series #52*,  
2008  
Pencil and ink transfer on  
paper bag  
4 x 11 inches

**Nathaniel Donnett** lives and works in Houston, Texas. He attended Texas Southern University. He won best of show with 123 SoHo Online art exhibition in 2006 and was awarded 3rd place in 2007 11th Citywide 5A (African American Advisory Association in conjunction with the Museum of Fine Arts) juried competition. In 2007 he participated in a visual art performance and musical piece with the choreographer Donald Byrd titled *Bhandra Fever* at the Wortham Theater. In 2007 he exhibited internationally in the group exhibition "Amistad" at The National Museum (Museo de la Nación) in Peru in Lima, Peru and The Modern Museum of Peru in Trujillo, Peru. In 2008 he was selected to participate in round 27 titled "Otherwise Constricted" at Project Row Houses in Houston, Texas in 2008, where he received two favorable reviews for his installation "The Greatest Store That Never Sold" in May 2008 Issue of Arts Houston magazine and the winter edition of Art Lies. Nathaniel has had a positive impact on the inner city's youth by doing some part time teaching at Families Under Urban and Social Attack. This is a community center program that helps at risk youth develop and assist in additional learning outside of their in school environment.

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Project Space

**Adela Andea**

## ***The Green™ cyber web***

*The Green™ cyber web* is a kinetic installation incorporating the latest computer gadgets in an intricate spatial web design, using formal aspects of visual geographic models of internet maps. Electronic components connected to several computer power sources suggest a static and dynamic confrontation of the virtual reality of computer generated cyberspaces with the realm of the environmentally sustainable industry of consumer electronics. Andea uses the green cathode light in reference to the current question of "what constitutes green." The concept of this installation is based on the complexity of the dilemma of making consumer electronics an environmentally sustainable industry. The materials are chosen for their symbolic meaning and also become the subject matter. This installation mitigates two extremes, between the valuable resources of information and the end responsibilities for recycling, giving a different meaning to the phrase "residual value."



Adela Andea  
*The Drawing Room*, 2008  
10' x 8' x 13'  
Cathode light, fans, wire,  
power supply, plaster

**Adela Andea** was born 1976, in the city Timisoara on the west side of Romania, Eastern Europe and lived under the oppressive communist regime of Nicolae Ceausescu. At the age of 13, Andea was a direct witness to the bloody Romanian Revolution of 1989 which started in her hometown and ended up with the overthrow of the totalitarian regime in Romania. In the year 1999 Andea found herself confronted with another dangerous situation, a war starting within 100 miles on the Romanian frontier, the intervention of NATO in Serbia. During these times of uncertainty, she immigrated to United States. Before settling in Texas in 2005, where she also received her American citizenship, she lived for six years in California working full time as a Paralegal in employment discrimination civil lawsuits. Her work has been included in numerous shows in California, Pennsylvania, and Texas. Andea graduated Summa Cum Laude from the Painting program at the University of Houston in 2009 and will continue her graduate studies in sculpture at the University of North Texas, Denton, TX.

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**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](http://www.lawndaleartcenter.org) or [askus@lawndaleartcenter.org](mailto:askus@lawndaleartcenter.org)

**Gallery Hours:** Monday-Friday, 10-5; Saturday, 12-5; Closed Sunday

**Admission:** Free

**Viewing Dates:** This exhibition will open on Friday, August 21, 2009 and will remain on view through Saturday, September 26, 2009.

**Press Contact:** Dennis Nance, 713-528-5858, [dnance@lawndaleartcenter.org](mailto: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 Hudson and Lee Kaplan, Anita and David Garten, Karen J. and David A. Sobotka, Daniel K. Dubrowski, Jenny and Mark Johnson, Samantha Schnee, H-E-B, Continental Airlines, Target, Art Colony Association, other contributors, memberships, benefit events and many volunteers.

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