

LAWNDALE ART CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lawndale Art Center

Presents

Exhibitions on view January 28 - March 12, 2011

Opening Reception January 28, 2011, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Artist talks at 6 PM

When I saw you last... – Josephine Durkin

John M. O'Quinn Gallery

Natural Resources – The Bridge Club

Mezzanine Gallery

Working Space – Hollis Cooper

Grace R. Cavnar Gallery

M4M – Mark Aguhar

Project Space

Also on view...

Snack Projects featuring Laura Lark

Houston, Texas – Lawndale Art Center presents four exhibitions **opening January 28, 2011, 6:30 – 8:30 PM**, with artist talks beginning at **6 PM**. In the John M. O'Quinn Gallery, **Josephine Durkin** works with a variety of methods to investigate how materials and objects can be manipulated and positioned to function as human surrogates in the exhibition ***When I saw you last...***. In the Mezzanine Gallery, **The Bridge Club** collaborative presents a new performance and installation work titled ***Natural Resources*** utilizing objects coated in either milk or petroleum oil. **Hollis Cooper** will create a site specific painting installation in response to the architecture of the Grace R. Cavnar Gallery for the exhibition ***Working Space***. In the Project Space, **Mark Aguhar's** exploration of queer expression and what it means to have grown up gay on the internet in a new series of works for the exhibition ***M4M***. The **SNACK PROJECTS** gallery will feature the Los Angeles bedroom of Neely O'Hara from the novel and movie *Valley of the Dolls* by Jacqueline Susan, in miniature, by artist **Laura Lark**. The exhibitions continue through **March 12, 2011**.

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John M. O'Quinn Gallery

Josephine Durkin

When I saw you last...

Josephine Durkin's research and studio practice has involved the creation of drawings, videos, sculptures, and large-scale, interactive and kinetic installations that personify recognizable or manipulated objects and materials. These are then used to suggest, mimic, invite or isolate human gestures, activities and relationships. She works with a variety of methods to investigate how materials and objects can be manipulated and positioned to function as human surrogates. In this solo exhibition at Lawndale Art Center, works include painted fans and cast, plastic pillows, manipulated school desks that "speak" to each other by way of a sensed, electromechanical sound system, and drawings that combine digital photographs of fabric and rubber with acrylic and colored pencil.

Josephine Durkin holds a BFA in Sculpture from Virginia Commonwealth University and an MFA in Sculpture from Yale University. She has also studied at the Corcoran School of Art in Washington D.C. and the Lorenzo de Medici School of Art in Florence, Italy. Before coming to the Department of Art at Texas A&M University - Commerce, she taught drawing and woodworking classes in Virginia and Connecticut and then worked as a sculptor and set designer at The Puppet Company in Glen Echo, Maryland. While at Yale, she worked with Natalie Jeremijenko and members of the Yale Engineering Department on the Feral Robotic Dog Project.

Recent exhibitions include solo shows at Metro Space in Richmond, Virginia, the Ulrich Museum of Art in Wichita, Kansas, the Torpedo Factory's Target Gallery in Alexandria, Virginia and Modern Fuel's State of Flux Gallery in Kingston, Ontario. Recent group shows include a contemporary video show at Kunstraum Innsbruck in Austria, an exhibition at CTRL (Control) gallery in Houston, the Critic's Pix 2 show in Dallas, Intricacies at Lohin Geduld in New York, and Performing Light at Lightselect Teofilo in Bari, Italy. She has been a guest lecturer at the University of North Texas, Virginia Commonwealth University, Wichita State University and the Dallas Contemporary, and guest artist, lecturer and panel member for Texelectronica, an international symposium and exhibition on art, music, technology and culture, held at the Museum of Modern Art in Fort Worth, Texas. Currently, she is an Assistant Professor of Art at Texas A&M University – Commerce and teaches 3-D Design, Sculpture, Contemporary Issues in Art, the Graduate Seminar and Video in Art.

www.josephinedurkin.com

Mezzanine Gallery

The Bridge Club

Natural Resources

Natural Resources, a new performance and installation work created by The Bridge Club Collaborative will feature two liquid substances: milk and petroleum oil. Each is loaded with multiple metaphoric meanings (i.e., 'mother's milk', 'black gold'), while each is also harvested or extracted from our natural surroundings for human sustenance and consumption. *Natural Resources* will feature a single, one-night live performance by The Bridge Club. During this performance, the four personae of The Bridge Club, clinically costumed as domestic 'resource workers,' will be engaged in a processing of materials and objects from everyday human domestic life.



Josephine Durkin

Blinded, 2009

Fans, paint, electrical cord,
hollow plastic casts of
pillows, hardware

Dimensions are dependent
on the dimensions of the
installation space.

6' x 28' x 20' (as pictured)

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Objects dipped either in oil or in milk, respectively, will be layered into large, transparent receptacles. As each object is dipped, it will be coated in a simultaneously protective and destructive residue.

Following the live performance, the receptacles housing the layered objects will be sealed, allowing the milk and the oil in their respective receptacles to sediment, congeal, rot, and otherwise transform around the domestic materials housed therein. Video footage from multiple projectors will cover the walls of the gallery showing, close-up images of pouring milk and pouring oil, as if the walls themselves were coated in these cascading liquids. Even as the materials in the receptacles begin to decay, the projected liquids will continue to flow, mirroring the dual abundance and loss that characterize our human relationship to the natural world.

The Bridge Club is a contemporary visual and performance art collaborative consisting of artists Annie Strader, Huntsville; TX, Christine Owen, Warren; CT, Emily Bivens, Knoxville; TN and Julie Wills, Gunnison; CO. The Bridge Club creates interdisciplinary installation, video, live performance and digital media works that are site- and context-specific, and each work investigates specific local histories, populations, contexts, stereotypes, expectations and conflicts. In 2009 The Bridge Club received a Visual Artist Network residency grant to create a site-specific work for the National Performance Network's annual meeting and in 2007 The Bridge Club was on the shortlist for the London International Creative Competition. In 2010 The Bridge Club's work was included in "Off the Strip" A New Genres Festival at The Contemporary Art Center in Las Vegas, NV and "Low Lives 2", an exhibition of live webcast video performance works shown in multiple national venues. The Bridge Club's work has been exhibited at 1708 Gallery, Richmond; VA, IDEA space, Colorado Springs; CO and SPACES Gallery, Cleveland; OH.

thebridgeclub.net

Grace R. Cavnar Gallery

Hollis Cooper

Working Space

Hollis Cooper's work straddles the line between site-specific installation and painting, dealing with perceptual/ painterly/ physical space in ways influenced by ideas of virtual reality and the Baroque, where multiple spatial models coexist in harmony. She intends the work to not reflect the unified, Renaissance view of perspectival space, but instead as multiple spaces that are folded and spliced into one another, while reintroducing elements of Baroque excess and theatricality, such as intense color and other visual cues that break the two-dimensional plane. Her approach towards creating painterly space is also intimately connected with the viewer's ability to activate that space, which includes not only the flat surfaces of the painted elements, but the entire architectural space in which the piece resides. The viewer is encouraged to interact with the work in unconventional ways: movement, distance, and shifts in sight-line are rewarded as the piece engages with its environment.



The Bridge Club
Natural Resources, 2010
Performance stills



Hollis Cooper
Narcissus, 2010
Acrylic on PVC
Dimensions Variable

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Cooper's installations begin as intricate architectural drawings created on the computer. The original source-material comes from mediated depictions of architectural "non-spaces": 3-D internet chat rooms, videogame-scapes, and airports. The drawings are further layered and manipulated on the computer using digital design programs, scaled up, broken into modular pieces, and created on sheets of PVC painted with ultra-glossy acrylic paints. The result is a piece that has both a machine and human aesthetic, a cyborg creation of sorts. The final installation will be created *in-situ* in the Grace Cavnar Gallery, as the artist completes the integration of painting and architectural environment.

*Born in 1976 in Jackson, Mississippi, **Hollis Cooper** grew up in New Orleans and Houston before moving to New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, and California. She received her undergraduate degree with high honors from Princeton University, a Post-Baccalaureate certificate from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, and an M.F.A. from Claremont Graduate University. She received a Joan Mitchell Foundation MFA Grant Award nomination from the CGU Art Department in 2006, and in 2007 was selected for the Drawing Center's Viewing Program in NYC. Her work has been featured/reviewed in publications such as New American Paintings, Art Papers, and Alarm Magazine, and has been included in shows throughout the United States, most recently at AT1:Projects in Los Angeles, and the Riverside Art Museum in Riverside, CA. Hollis lives and works in the Los Angeles area.*

holliscooper.com

Project Space

Mark Aguhar

M4M

M4M is a collection of new works in Mark Aguhar's continued exploration of queer expression and what it means to have grown up gay on the internet. Aguhar collects visual artifacts from queer online communities and uses them in his work to define and redefine who he is and what his body is. Aguhar works primarily in drawing, making bluntly gay works that combine porn, fashion, textile patterns, optical effects, trans identities, and queer jokes. He does not intend to make teaching work, or art to represent the entirety of the LGBTIQA community, he just wants to express his own realness.

***Mark Aguhar** was born and raised in Houston, TX in a relatively traditional Filipino family. He spent his formative undergraduate years in Austin at the University of Texas where he got my first taste of being part of an art community and developed his practice in a variety of media. Aguhar has shown his work regionally around Texas, in Austin, Dallas and Houston, and his work has recently been included in print through Open Studios Press's New American Paintings magazine. Aguhar moved to Chicago this past fall for the studio art MFA program at UIC and has been breaking into the city's art and queer communities. He has been doing a lot of exploring his queer presentation, a lot of drawing, and a lot of eating.*

markaguhar.com



Mark Aguhar
Transy Girlfriend Looks
(David S.), October 2010
Ink, gouache & watercolor on
paper
8" x 5"

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Also on view...

SNACK PROJECTS featuring *Laura Lark*

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, featuring the work of both local and regional.

About Lawndale:	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.
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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, January 28, 2011 and will remain on view through Saturday, March 12, 2011.
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 City of Houston, 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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