

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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LAWNDALE ART CENTER

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Lawndale Art Center

Presents

Exhibitions on view

September 9 – October 22, 2016

Opening Reception Friday, May 6, 2016, 6:30 - 8:30 PM
Artist talks at 6 PM

John M. O'Quinn Gallery

ArtFiction: Ten Fictional Modernists from Texas

Curated by Rino Pizzi

Cecily E. Horton Gallery

Traded

Curated by James Scheuren

Grace R. Cavnar Gallery

Mystic Dumb-Dumb

Joe Wooten

Project Space

Idiot Machines/Infinity Loops

Trey Duvall

Houston, Texas – Lawndale Art Center presents four exhibitions **opening September 9, 2016, 6:30 – 8:30 PM**, with **artist talks beginning at 6 PM**. In the John M. O'Quinn Gallery, ***ArtFiction***, curated by **Rino Pizzi**, involves exchanges between ten writers, visual artists and actors/performers addressing the relations between art production and critical narratives and the effect artists' biographies have on the public perception of their work. In the Cecily E. Horton Gallery, ***Traded*** is a group exhibition consisting of artists who have traded works with one another curated by **James Scheuren**. The exhibition presents an artistic sensibility from the perspective of the artist, as opposed to the collector/curator, and also evidences a form of artistic exchange that circumvents the traditional art market. **Joe Wooten** presents new mixed media collage works in the Grace R. Cavnar Gallery for the exhibition ***Mystic Dumb-Dumb***. In the Project Space, **Trey Duvall's *Idiot Machines/Infinity Loops*** include a series of work emphasizing humor, futility and failure consisting of closed loop systems and tools that don't achieve a purposeful outcome echo the ridiculous humor of quotidian life. These exhibitions continue **through October 22, 2016**.

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John M. O'Quinn Gallery

ArtFiction: Ten Fictional Modernists from Texas Curated by Rino Pizzi

ArtFiction is a collaborative project developed by Rino Pizzi and involves exchanges between writers, visual artists and actors/performers. This project addresses a broad range of cultural perspectives on the relations between art production and critical narratives and the effect of artists' biographies on the public perception of their work. Ten writers were invited to write about ten fictional Texas artists supposed to be living and working any time between the 1940's and the early 1980's. Ten actual artists responded by creating work that could be attributed to the imagined artists, and ten actors sat for photographic portraits of the fictional personas. Ten actors studied the biographies and impersonated the artists for photo sessions in photographic styles current with their time and consistent with their personas. There are two distinct contexts for *ArtFiction*. One relates to the historical experience of art—its institutions, its established professional and intellectual cultures, its modes of production and circulation, and the conflicting claims in terms of value, authorship and historical relevance. The second is specific to the cultural landscape and the communities where the project will be presented. In the broad landscape of Texas modern art history, the narratives of the various fictional artists will create a symbolic counterpart to for the actual historical experience, which to date is still far from being fully researched and assessed.



Participating writers: Robert Faires, Steve Harrigan, Kirk Lynn, Janis Bergman-Carton, Kurt Heinzelman, Katie Robinson Edwards, Pete Gershon, Sandra Goldman, Mary Mikel Stump and Edward Carey, Annette DiMeo Carlozzi

Participating artists: Sydney Yeager, Jules Buck Jones, Steve Wiman, Liz Ward, Caroline Wright, Stella Alesi, and Rick Mansfield, Brett Brookshire, Leon Alesi and Amy Morrow

Participating actors: Nadine Mozon, Jeff Mills, Jason Phelps, Florinda Bryant, Cami Calys, Teresa Elliott, William Tucker, Jennifer Balkan, Van Harrison, William Hoover and Amy Morrow

Public Program:

**Artist Talk led by Rino Pizzi
with artists from the exhibition *ArtFiction: Ten Fictional Modernists from Texas***

Saturday, September 10, 2016

2 PM

Followed by a reception with the artists

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Cecily E. Horton Gallery

Traded

Curated by James Scheuren

Traded is a group exhibition consisting of artists who have traded works with one another. James Scheuren reached out to a number of artists, who he knows personally and whose work he respects, asking them to propose one artist with whom they have traded works to join the artist roster. In this way, an extended network of artists began to form, and the concrete evidence of these connections exists in the artworks themselves. For the exhibition, each artist pair presents two works that they have traded with one another. The exhibition presents an artistic sensibility from the perspective of the artist, as opposed to the collector/curator, and also evidences a form of artistic exchange that circumvents the traditional art market. This reflects an interstice, in the sense of a space outside an economic system, which artists have created through trades that preclude the sales of the traded works. The trade elides the commodification of the art object or the art object as financial investment. Moreover, the show bespeaks the importance of artists' communities, formed through personal and professional relationships, some of which go back many years. These works on display thus indicate a fuller life around the periphery of the so-called "artworld"—one in which artists support and encourage one another's work. The exhibition engages the public's perception of how most artists actually live and highlights how much artwork produced is not sold and often is not originally produced with the impetus to be sold.



Fern Vargas Vargas
Artifact, 2015
Alabaster
11"x3.5"

Grace R. Cavnar Gallery

Joe Wooten

Mystic Dumb-Dumb

Joe Wooten presents a new series of collages in the Grace R. Cavnar Gallery. Wooten's work exists in the arena of the whimsical and bizarre. His work incorporates repetitively dyed and cut paper and imagery that embraces the ephemeral area of the mind. Skeletons, living creatures, bouquets, masks, and cigarettes, Portrayed in a carootnish style and with an acidic palette, become confrontational and odd.



Joe Wooten
Gregor, 2015
Gouache, watercolor
and hand died paper
collage on canvas
16" x 20"

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Project Space

Idiot Machines/Infinity Loops **Trey Duvall**

Idiot Machines/Infinity Loops is a series of work emphasizing humor, futility and failure. Closed loop systems and tools that don't achieve a purposeful outcome echo the ridiculous humor of quotidian life. Freed from the exhaustion of being useful, these machines and systems playfully exemplify an underlying futility and pointlessness. The works created for the Project Space balance between rational and irrational logics. Drills, pulleys, cranks, toys and tools are manipulated, reprogrammed and repurposed in order to accomplish nothing, and then comically repeat to accomplish nothing, endlessly.



Trey Duvall
God Damn It, Larry, 2016
Pulley, rope and balloon
18" x 10" x 6"

Public Program:

Screening of *The Way Things Go* - A Film by Peter Fischli & David Weiss followed by a conversation with Trey Duvall

Wednesday, September 28
7 PM

**For more information on upcoming events at Lawndale, please visit:
www.lawndaleartcenter.org**

About Lawndale:	Lawndale Art Center is an alternative art space founded in 1979. For over 36 years, Lawndale has dedicated itself to the support of contemporary art with a particular focus on the work of Houston and Texas-based artists.
Address:	4912 Main St., Houston, TX 77002
For More Info:	www.lawndaleartcenter.org or askus@lawndalwartcenter.org
Gallery Hours:	Monday-Friday, 10-5; Saturday, 12-5; Closed Sunday
Admission:	Free
Viewing Dates:	These exhibitions open on Friday, September 9, 2016 and will remain on view through Saturday, October 22, 2016.
Press Contact:	Dennis Nance - 713-528-5858, dnance@lawndaleartcenter.org

Lawndale Art Center is generously supported by The Brown Foundation, Inc., The John R. Eckel, Jr. Foundation, Felvis Foundation, Houston Endowment, the City of Houston through the Houston Museum District Association, Kathrine McGovern/John P. McGovern Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Don Sanders and Laura Moore, Saint Arnold Brewing Company, Texas Commission on the Arts, United Airlines, The Wortham Foundation, Inc., in addition to Lawndale's Board of Directors, members and volunteers.

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