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High-resolution digital images available on request.

Dallas Contemporary Presents Viewfinder: New Images by Texas Artists

DALLAS (March 2, 2009) ~ Dallas Contemporary opens *Viewfinder: New Images by Texas Artists*, **March 13 ~ May 30, 2009**. The members' opening, **Friday, March 13, 2009, 7 ~ 9:30 pm**, will offer light snacks, refreshments, and free admission.

Dallas Contemporary proudly hosts the acclaimed exhibition, *Viewfinder: New Images by Texas Artists*, created jointly by FotoFest and Houston Center for Photography (HCP). *Viewfinder: New Images by Texas Artists* is a stirring exhibition featuring 16 artists from across Texas. Arturo Palacios (Director, Art Palace, Austin) and Risa Puleo (Assistant Curator of American and Contemporary Art, Blanton Museum of Art, Austin) co-curated the exhibition, which coincides with the national Society for Photographic Education (SPE) meeting in Dallas this month.

Viewfinder explores the wide scope of photographic art practiced today from traditional film-based still photography to video and installation work. Featured artists include:

Ben Aqua: Post-apocalyptic Utopia populated by fashionable survivors and *Veronica*, an extended situational portrait project, Aqua examines the life of the titular young woman in her home and personal space.

Rebecca Carter: Removing her hand from the direct capturing of images, Carter outfits her cat with a head-mounted camera triggered automatically and allows it wander outside in her backyard. The resulting images offer unconventional and unexpected viewpoints rendered in otherworldly color and angles.

Piotr Chizinski: Digitally stitched photo collages of friends' homes are layered with schemata that describe and quantify the owner's various possessions. Using a social theory formula (Stuart Social Status Scale) developed by sociologist F Stuart Chapin in the 1930s, and modified by modern theorists, the spaces and, subsequently the inhabitants, are distilled to a number indicating their social class standing. Objects such as original works of art are additive while others like a makeshift card table/dining table are subtractive.

Beau Comeaux: Large-format night photographs depict rural and suburban scenes devoid of a human presence with eerie stillness reminiscent of classic horror movies.

Emilie Duval: French-born Duval's films show nostalgia for youth and reflect her own experience as an outsider in a foreign land.

Dallas Contemporary Presents...

Page Two

Robin Dru Germany: Germany's photographs are seemingly physiological or medical in nature. After closer examination, the apparent microbes, veins and nerves are revealed to be parts of flowering plants, tree roots and stalks, richly colored by the artist.

Buster Graybill: Graybill assumes a rich and different identity when making the performative photographs in his *Get'n Groceries* series. This persona, a caricature of rural Texas "rednecks," skins a deer tethered to his parked pickup, and records the event with an infrared camera.

Anna Krachey: Krachey elevates the value of items commonly thought to have lost their worth by purchasing them from online site such as eBay and Craigslist and repurposing them for her art. Krachey's installation presents her current obsession with show horse ephemera ~ the documents of highly priced animals, esteemed to near mythic proportions by many in Texas.

Ivan Lozano: Video artist Ivan Lozano's installation *Back Room Lament* presents heavily abstracted and filtered images from 1960s "cult" gay film comedies. The films, with their now anachronistic portrayal of a free-spirited, AIDS-free gay lifestyle, are the basis for Lozano's memorial to those who have died from the AIDS epidemic. The ghostly, disembodied figures float about and reference 19th century spirit photography.

Lupita Murillo Tinnen: "Documents the undocumented," Tinnen photographs illegal immigrant families. Herself the child of undocumented immigrants, Tinnen is personally aware of the fear and anxiety felt by this (not so) secret community of immigrants that live among the general population.

Justin Parr: Parr's *Portrait of the Artist as a City* uses his video self-portrait to portray San Antonio as a place with a peculiar rhythm and pace. The film, made with digital still photographs, exploits a glitch in the camera's capabilities to show a narrative that steps back and jumps forward at an unpredictable rate.

Zeque Peña: Sound artist and DJ, Peña's photographs in his *Zechs Marquise* series were created as illustrations of characters in his music. The larger than life-sized images and sounds embody the dark, apocalyptic soundtrack Peña has composed.

Eduardo Garcia: Garcia, a well-known sound artist, is a member of the AKA collective and a founder of Sound Art Space in Laredo.

Ansen Seale: Seale modified his digital still camera to record time and movement on a single frame, subverting and "freezing" a sequence presented linearly in time-based media like video. Images that appear digitally stretched and blurred emerge from the camera as-is without manipulation.

David Waddell: Waddell handcrafts unnatural creatures made from common household objects. Inhabiting his staged environments in short video works, Waddell first makes still photographs of his creations performing natural acts such as eating, hunting, procreating and raising their young. Animated by scrolling the still images on an iPod, the result is a contemporary emulation of 19th century kinetoscope/zoetrope technology.

Dallas Contemporary Presents...

Page Three

Added by Dallas Contemporary:

Jean Karotkin: A behind-the-scenes glimpse, Karotkin photographs her subjects in moments of transformation into their public personas. She explores the complex relationship between identity and gender, and the social construction of the “feminine” as surface and image.

Showing concurrently is the *Mix!* Series artist **Yen-Hua Lee**, a New York artist who uses her drawings to explore memories and stories. *Hallworks* artist **Valerie J Corwin**, chosen from last year’s members’ exhibition, captures intimate figurative scenes in her oil paintings.

Educational tours are available for all ages. Dallas Contemporary, located in the Wilson Historic District at 2801 Swiss Avenue, is free and open to the public Tuesday ~ Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm. For more information, call 214-821-2522 or visit www.thecontemporary.net.

Dallas Contemporary *presents art in a forum that cultivates artist, ignites learning, and inspires the community.* Fifteen challenging exhibitions yearly feature theme shows based on artists' ideas, solo shows by diverse artists, sculpture in the garden, and a member artist chosen for the hall. The education program **Art Think**© uses contemporary art as a springboard to critical thinking. It is designed to increase test scores, improve communication skills, increase the ability to problem solve and give form to emotions and imagination, the program adds to a student’s creative thinking skills. Visit the welcoming, high-ceilinged galleries filled with natural light.

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