MFA Thesis Exhibition · O V E R L A P · December 1-18, 2005

Public Opening Reception: Thursday, December 1, 5:30–8:30 pm
Tour with a Tufts Art Gallery Guide: Saturday, December 3, 1:00pm
Gallery Talks with the Artists: Thursday, December 8, 6:00pm

MEDFORD, MA – A MFA Thesis Exhibition of seven artists in the joint graduate degree program of Tufts University and the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston opens December 1 at the Tufts University Art Gallery. This exhibition of contemporary art, titled “Overlap” is first in an annual, ongoing series of MFA Thesis Exhibitions presented by Tufts.

ARTISTS’ STATEMENTS

Stacey Boughrum  Plot Line
“I am consumed by the concepts of home and family (social constructs built from ideologies and discourses, culturally and psychologically situated). I am specifically interested in their promise of security, as well as their ability to position identity, status, and class. In this work I hope to expose the arbitrariness of the mark-making process as well as critique the illusion, promise, and failure of the American domestic structure.”

Ria Brodell  The Whale and His Friend the Submarine Take a Journey
“I suppose I am an explorer, of sorts, an observer and documenter. I must say that I’m particularly interested in the physical characteristics and appearance of the animals or ‘creatures’ that I have discovered more so than their habitats. Through my observation I have been able to gather basic information about their behaviors, though many remain a mystery to me. For instance, I have observed that the tiny Submarine always accompanies the Whale. It seems to be a symbiotic relationship. The sculpture and drawings that I create are an attempt to represent these animals to the best of my ability in situations in which I have encountered or imagined them.”

Amanda Fiedler  Sporty Spice
“As a system of language, fashion operates in a multi-faceted way, forming a complex relationship between clothing and the body. In my work, I combine, mix up, remix, and spit back out the signs and codes of my own life and of my own clothes. I search for strategies to successfully displace clothes and what they signify, to create something that is more personally relevant, to break through the categories to which certain pieces of clothing are so often associated, and thereby to question the necessity of those categories.”
Kelly Anona Kerrigan  Daniela the Third
“The portraits in this work depict each of the artists showing in this Thesis exhibition. For each, I have constructed and dressed them in fragments of clothing taken from the history of art and particularly portraiture. By assigning an item to each person, I am questioning identities and the power of outside objects to alter images and self-presentation. These particular objects refer to the efforts of my colleagues and myself to locate ourselves within the lineage of an art practice.”

Brad Nelson  Wooden Chair
“This is an inquiry into the elusive realm of ‘understanding’ and the thinly disguised veils that limit knowledge. The works for this show function as objects that have the potential to support and nourish ideologies based on surface appearance. These structures, made of foam insulation board, paper, and canvas are all painted with a thin layer of oil paint that is an identifiable skin. Faith is invested in these realities that delicately exist as empty promises. At first glance, they are able to support the weight of their implied function, but upon investigating their properties, these default notions crumble and fall flat.”

Courtney Nimura  Untitled (Pink Neon)
“This body of work is dominated by two themes: a devotion to and an admiration of the medium of photography, and an obsession with documentation and chronicling. There is a wide range of subjects, all the products of my visual obsessions with form, light, color and the photographic renderings of these things. These images function as representations of subjects, and of photographic “events”, documentations of that space between the real and the representation. It is in this gap that I find not only the tragedy of photography, but also its most fantastic beauty.”

Daniela Rivera  Tilted Room
“I’ve been forever removed from myself, having no sense of location. I am lost in a world of well-defined cultural traditions, ethnic groups and races. Time is spatial within me and I realize that I am both time and space. In this particular location, I am a European, a Latino, and a native South American woman who ingested/ingests all. I am a space where all historic times exist at once. I am a product of cultural, political, discursive, ethnic and racial anthropology. I recreate utilitarian uses of painting which alter representational and perceptual planes to make painting perform as “space” and ask the body – the viewer’s and my own – to assume the role of the subject of the painting. Painting becomes a tool for staging, generating a physical experience. An excess of pictoral simulation turns into a baroque collapse of the discipline of painting.”

The mission of the Tufts University Art Gallery is to animate the intellectual life of the greater university community through exhibitions and programs exploring new, global perspectives on art and on art discourse. The gallery is located in the Aidekman Arts Center on the Tufts University Medford campus. The Gallery is fully accessible and admission is free. Hours are 11 am to 5 pm Tuesday through Sunday and Thursdays until 8 pm. Parking is available in metered spaces on Latin Way Road and in the Dowling Hall parking garage at 419 Boston Avenue. Visit www.ase.tufts.edu/gallery or call 617-627-3518 for more information.