

**ART GALLERY NEWS RELEASE**

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Tufts University Art Gallery  
at the Aidekman Arts Center  
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**MFA THESIS  
EXHIBITION**

**November 30-December 17, 2006**

*Public Opening Reception: Thursday, November 30, 2006, 5:30-8:30pm*

*Gallery Talk with the Artists: Thursday, December 7, 6:00pm*

*Voice Your Vision! Guided Tour: Saturday, December 2 & December 16, 2:30pm*

MEDFORD, MA – An **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 **November 30** at the **Tufts University Art Gallery**. This exhibition of contemporary art is the first in an annual, ongoing series of MFA Thesis Exhibitions presented by Tufts.



**Leah Gauthier** *Lettuce*

“*Lettuce* is a sculptural installation of heirloom lettuce grown by the artist. During the opening the lettuce will be harvested, tossed into salad and shared.”

**Rebecca Heyl** *Collateral Damage*

“I have created a mixed media presentation using fabric and collage. *Collateral Damage* represents the rising number of deaths due to the Iraq war – the more than 50,000 recorded deaths resulting directly from the violence, as well as the indirect, and often unreported deaths. The installation will create a space for mourning and remembrance of all the dead – Iraqi or American, combatant or civilian.”

Abd Alkader Mhmed Saed Abd Ala 33 male married farmer tank  
Nsef Gasem Gber Alhmdawe 35 male married worker shrapnel  
Uwnes Mhesen Gasem 35 male married driver bullets Denmark  
36 male married sewing missile attack Near House 6 Apr 2003  
Kalb Hmd Mbark 37 male married businessman shrapnel Hy TI  
Busra Taha 38 female married housewife tank attack Al Rashid  
38 male married farmer tank attack Al Rashiddia 6 Apr 2003  
Hussen Retha Mahmud Al-Bana 43 male married teacher (retire  
KrenAbas Naser 44 male married driver tank attack Al Rashid  
Magda Sman Rsn Shwawa Aldaene 46 female married housewife  
HeatAbas Ahmed Abas 49 female married housewife tank attack  
Ahmed Abas Ahmed Hsen 50 male married farmer tank attack  
Hdea Sman Hsen 55 female married housewife tank attack Al R  
56 male married businessman shrapnel 6 Apr 2003  
Mgedv Hmed Alsamraae 57 male married businessman tank att  
64 male married businessman shrapnel 6 Apr 2003



**Jia-Jen Lin** *Untitled*

“I find it fascinating to create sculpture of various shapes using my body, water, and air movement. I enlarge my hair and torso, transforming them into vinyl tubing and latex work. By wearing the heavy and oversized sculptures, which make it hard for me to move, I portray the discomfort and displacement caused by them. My work provides a perspective on where we belong when daily life is overly saturated by artificial environments. The exhibition consists of photographic and video documentation of three sculpture works.”

**Julie Lohnes**

“My two-screen video installation positions the viewer between two walls. One wall features a melee of activity on a panoramic beach facing the ocean. Seven women in their late twenties to early thirties are involved in a gun fight wearing all sorts of modes of feminine dress: high heels, dresses, bathing suits, skirts and jeans. The “guns” are carved out of pink polystyrene and are not precise depictions of a revolver, a 9mm or a rifle. The second wall features the same seven women facing away from the viewer watching the footage from the first wall on a TV screen. The guns are spread throughout the installation space and travel with each participant during the opening and exhibition. Viewers are encouraged to play with the guns.”





**Inki Min** *Public Garden*

“I have concentrated on painting, sculpture, and photography in most of my recent works. The paintings are Impressionist and Expressionist American landscapes in mixed Western and Eastern styles, accented by teddy bears. Personifications of my childhood icons and fantasies reflect social relationships in our multi-cultural, multi-racial landscape from my viewpoint as a foreigner. I wish to extract and illustrate my stories and messages using pop culture. I am commenting on colonialism, globalization, and American consumerism with the popular icons I use. Despite the serious messages I like to express, I strongly believe that art can convey warm feelings and does not need to be too serious.”

“A moment of bottomless despair Found me  
Letting go of everything that tethered  
Having to survive  
Plunging  
With arms outstretched  
Mouth and I’s wide open  
cells, molecules, and atoms,  
quantum strings,  
Breaking through to a NeuroMorphic  
Universe.

Pieces of this NeuroMorphic Universe are  
presented in this project,  
Microscopic and Macroscopic simultaneously,  
Mirroring layered complexity and an  
interconnected consciousness.  
Whimsical, Irrational, Playful  
Medicis and Tomato Soup topple  
Where the Child is a Warrior  
In My NeuroMorphic Garden.”

**Natacha Villamia Sochat**  
*Invasion in a NeuroMorphic Universe*



**Laura Stewart**

“This body of work is comprised of oil on panel paintings that depict figures in bed, surrounded by the folds of well-worn sheets, blankets, and pillows.”

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The **Tufts University Art Gallery** animates 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 11am to 5 pm Tuesday through Sunday and Thursdays until 8 pm. **Free daytime visitor parking** is available in the two parking lots off Lower Campus Road. Parking passes must be obtained at the front desk of the gallery and displayed on your dashboard. Free event parking is available without a pass in the lot behind the Aidekman Arts Center, off Lower Campus Road. Visit our website: [www.ase.tufts.edu/gallery](http://www.ase.tufts.edu/gallery) or call 617-627-3518 for more information.