

For Immediate Release—March 30, 2010

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Tufts University Art Gallery
at the Aidekman Arts Center
40 Talbot Avenue, Medford, MA 02155
<http://artgallery.tufts.edu>

MFA THESIS EXHIBITION: April 15 to May 2, 2010
Public Opening Reception: Thursday, April 15, 5:30-8:00pm
Gallery Talk with the Artists: Thursday, April 22, 6:00-7:00pm

MEDFORD, MA – An **MFA Thesis Exhibition** of ten artists in the joint graduate degree program of Tufts University and the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston opens **April 15** at the **Tufts University Art Gallery**. This exhibition of contemporary art is the second of three MFA Thesis Exhibitions presented by Tufts.



CHAD ARNHOLDT

Chad Arnholdt's installation and sculptural works reference one-on-one communication and missed attempts at such. Handmade from wood, hardware, and handtools, the work is familiar yet precarious, alluding to senses of desire, longing, connection, damage, play, and danger.



JEN BARROWS

through the perilous fight is part of an ongoing investigation of the construction of American identity. In the video, the artist interprets a series of events (including rites and rituals) in order to examine contemporary America through the lenses of popular culture, history, religion, and tourism.



ZHANG CHEN

In her work, the artist plays a character living through different historical ages in China. In each era, she is herself at a different age. She deconstructs layers of “decoration” to experience a new way of thinking. Her study of history is subjective—one of emotional introspection rather than of objectively facing the essence of history.



JACOB KINCHELOE

Trying All the Time features a series of meticulously rendered graphite drawings on paper. Utilizing the figure as a performative vehicle, the drawings depict both the struggle and the pleasure of residing in a yearning body. These works seek to pose questions about the nature of the body and to explore the mechanisms of desire.



VALERIA LOPEZ

Polyglot Telephone is a three-channel video installation that explores the discrepancy of language translation. The work begins with a story told in Spanish about growing up in Mexico City in 1962. The story is then translated successively, 12 times into 8 different languages with English interspersed. The translations will be shown on two monitors while a third channel will be projected between them showing a visual reenactment of the story.



COBI MOULES

In three large paintings, Moules creates a fantasy world where multiple selves are spread throughout the area of the Kaaterskill Falls, in the Catskill Mountains. The multiple selves within these paintings explore the landscape as well as each other, creating many small yet significant moments. The insertion of self into this particular landscape is an exploration of the artist's relationship with ideas of nature, God, and the significance of the self.



DANE OLSON

The Harmonic Infantry is a performance examining the concepts of creation and destruction, utilizing firearms as musical instruments. The goal was to play a piece of classical music. A documentary video demonstrates the process and results of this series of performative acts. Additionally, twenty-five steel bars are included which serve as targets, and are tuned in equal temperament. Other remnants include, shell casings, photographs, and the uniform worn by the rifle-men/musicians.



SARAH PECK

Sarah Peck's video and installation investigate the meanings and significance of collecting, storage, and notions of ownership. She asks questions such as: *To what extent do the objects we collect, create, and prize reflect who we are and how we think? What sorts of narratives develop around our spaces and collections? Can these stories further an understanding of ourselves and those around us?*



ALEXANDRA PHOTOPOLOUS

Alexandra Photopolous' carefully constructed sculptural works combine elements and materials from period furniture with forms that reference the human body. Resembling chairs and sofas as well as prosthetic devices and compromised bodies, the sculptures speak about our experiences of comfort and damage, the domestic and the uncanny. Disturbing, humorous, or pathetic, each piece gestures toward a futile attempt to heal the body and restore its function through the materials of nostalgia and luxury.



SONG WON YUN

Song Won Yun's project started from a fundamental question about the flow of time, the essence of life and the measure of change. In my painting, I create micro-organisms that seem to float in their own universe but that have a dynamic trajectory linking past, present, and future. To connect my paintings in pictorial space with real, physical space in nature, I will show six photographs that point to the same flow of time in nature.

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