

M.F.A. THESIS EXHIBITION 2010



C.W. POST CAMPUS • LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY • APRIL 19, 2010 - MAY 14, 2010 • HILLWOOD ART MUSEUM

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

An Asian proverb states, "Once you are the teacher of a fine student in school, you will always be that student's teacher through life." On behalf of the graduate Art faculty, it is with honor and pride that I present our Master of Fine Arts program graduates for 2010.

The young artists in this exhibition have worked diligently with their faculty mentors to achieve their own unique personal vision as confident professionals ready to debut in today's competitive art world.

The M.F.A. at the C.W. Post Campus of Long Island University is designed to take full advantage of C.W. Post's unique position near the vast resources of New York City's museums, galleries, and alternative spaces. M.F.A. students' work is exhibited in New York City and its environs. Off-campus exhibitions introduce our student artists to the professional world and assist them in entering the competitive art field. Exhibitions build student confidence as artists and offer them opportunities to showcase the research process of their experimental work. M.F.A. students exhibit their art work on campus at Hillwood Art Museum, Student Art League Gallery, Sculpture Building Gallery, Tilles Center Patron's Lounge, and the Hutchins Gallery. Collectively these exhibitions allow our M.F.A. students to produce thesis exhibitions of extraordinary professional artistic quality.

I want to express my gratitude to our dedicated Art faculty and

Rhoda Grauer, Dean, School of Visual and Performing Arts; Dr. Donna Tuman, Chair, Art Department; Barbara Applegate, Director, Hillwood Art Museum; Professor Rich Del Rosso, Computer Graphic Design Faculty Member; Professor Terence O'Daly, Computer Graphic Design Faculty Member; Cathy Morante, Graduate Advisor, and Julie O'Daly, M.F.A. graduating student, for their support to the M.F.A. graduate degree program.

Congratulations to Chukwuma Oguagha, Julie O'Daly, Sini Unni, Susanne Johnson, Susan Coffman, Tonya Klopfer and Jenna Lawson for a very exciting and innovative M.F.A. exhibition.

Graduates, remember, through life, your teachers will await your return to applaud your accomplishments and share in your stories of success.

Seung Lee
Director of Fine Arts and Graduate Studies
Art Department
School of Visual and Performing Arts

C.W. POST CAMPUS of LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY
M.F.A. THESIS EXHIBITION 2010

M.F.A. GRADUATES

Susan D. Coffman

Susanne Johnson

Tonya M. Klopfer

Jenna Lawson

Julie O'Daly

Chukwama Oguagha

Sini Unni

MATERIALIZED EXPERIENCE

M.F.A. THESIS EXHIBITION 2010

I feel it now: there's a power in me to grasp and give shape to my world. I know that nothing has ever been real without my beholding it.

Rainer Maria Rilke

My life and art have not been separated. They have been together.

Eva Hesse

Each of the seven artists in this exhibition is concerned with translating visual, psychological or social experience into material process and form. In distinct ways, each is demonstrating the transformation from subjective, personal knowledge to communication with the viewer, the setting up of an encounter between the artwork and the audience that will allow for a moment of connection and shared experience.

Whether conveying intimate memories and emotions, examining social forces of authority and subjection or experimenting with concepts of visual consciousness, each artist proposes to implicate the viewer in their work, leading to questioning and reflection on our personal, cultural and artistic assumptions and values.

Metal, silk, porcelain, fogged glass, black latex, delicate washes of ink; bodies emerging and distorted, fragmented and trapped; energies both physical and psychological, building in suspense and power; delicate shapes and subtle illusions multiplied into hypnotic systems; messages written and implied; settings from the world and in the mind; tangible surfaces and intangible fears and desires: These are materialized experience.

Dr. Rachel Baum, Director of Art History

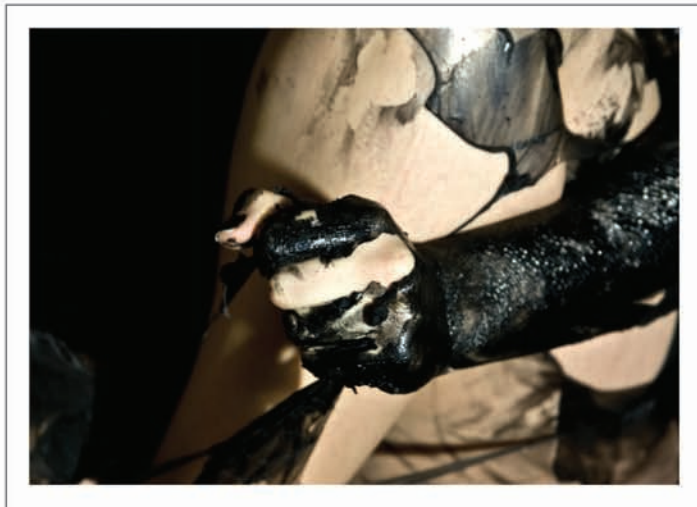
SUSAN D. COFFMAN

ARTIST STATEMENT

Bipolar disorder has been a prominent theme in my photographs. I have experimented with work that reflects the manic phases of the disorder, touching on hypersexuality, hypergraphia, and feelings of guilt and remorse. The work in this exhibition addresses the other side of the disorder – depression. My own body becomes the subject, the object that portrays the emotion. Objectified and naked, I pose before the camera and viewer, desperately trying to represent something that cannot be pictured. The blackness of the space and on the body reflects the darkness and invisibility of the disease. I rip this substance off of me, symbolizing the inner struggle to become well. This is my experience, a chance to relate with those who have experienced the disease, and an attempt to dramatize it for those who haven't.

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296.53, Untitled #5, Inkjet Print, 13"x19"



296.53, Untitled #4, Inkjet Print, 17"x22"



296.53, Untitled #1, Inkjet Print, 18"x24"

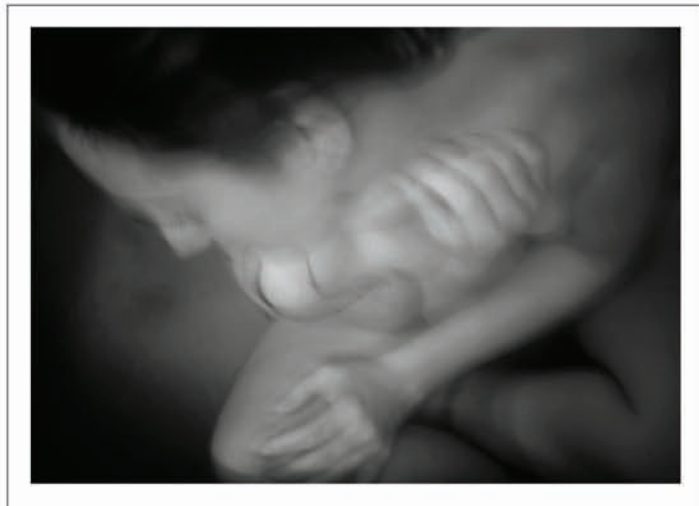
SUSANNE JOHNSON

ARTIST STATEMENT

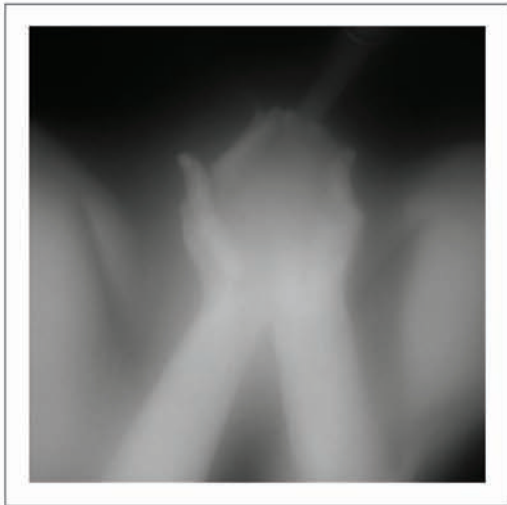
My photographs are an exploration of what exists in the mind, beyond language. As humans we store our ideas, our memories, and our wounds in our subconscious. I make images to explore this subconscious, allowing myself to reveal those abstract thoughts and emotions that are otherwise impossible to express and communicate. Photography, to me, is a pictorial record of emotion and affective memory. I use this medium as an internal mirror in which I seek self-recognition. This is an ongoing process and emerges as a theme in most of my work.

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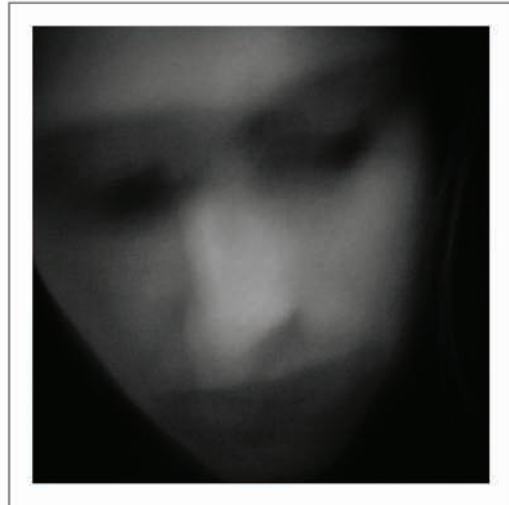
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Memory #1, Pigment Print, 36"x54"



Memory #2, Pigment Print, 24"x 24"



Memory #3, Pigment Print, 12"x12"

TONYA M. KLOPFER

ARTIST STATEMENT

My work portrays the deep personal challenge that I have endured as a woman seeking to define myself beyond the terms of ideal femininity. My work explores the distortion and even violence of conforming to our cultural values of beauty and conventional, appropriate identity. The pressures society places on women to fulfill certain bodily images motivate this collection of artworks. Specifically, my pieces symbolize the tension between women viewed as objects and their own internal perspectives, the outpouring of thoughts and emotions that cannot be contained in an exterior form, however perfect. I display this eruption of women's internal conflicts through a tangible medium. In chorus, the sculptures are emblematic of the torrent of my own emotion and the disfigurement of the ideal.

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Untitled Detail, Paper Clay, 18"x10"



Untitled, Paper Clay, 18"x10"



Untitled, Paper Clay, 16"x15"

JENNA LAWSON

ARTIST STATEMENT

My work is concerned with the translation of forms and processes of transfer between materials. I reassemble and transform an abstract field of fragments across drawings, ceramic objects and prints. In this way, I expand a formal concept through the acts of constructing, destroying, adding and subtracting. My work has evolved into two opposing, but interrelated, series. The first series are painstakingly carved and molded ceramic slabs containing a low-relief surface of geometric patterning. The second are prints which represent the source drawing for the composition of each ceramic piece. I work back and forth from a model, changing media and questioning the definitions of what is original and what is a copy.

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Untitled, Acrylic and Modeling Paste on Wood Panel, 12"x48"



Untitled, White Clay Slab with Black Slip, 8"x10"



Untitled, Series of 3 White Clay Slabs with Black Slip, 8"x10"

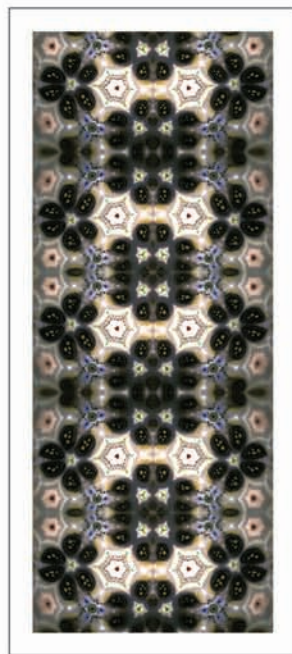
JULIE O'DALY

ARTIST STATEMENT

My work explores shared symbols and universal truths found in artistic traditions throughout history and across human cultures. These designs synthesize natural systems with primal geometries, with the intent of representing balance, consciousness and peace. The intricate order of pattern invites the viewer to enter into a visual experience of beauty, calm and harmony. The eye and the mind are synchronized in the contemplation of detailed geometric fields. This concentration leads the viewer beyond the limits of the individual self and immediate environment. The perceptual and imaginative experience of these works is intended to pose an alternative to our society's state of passive consumption, distraction and the daily assault of information.

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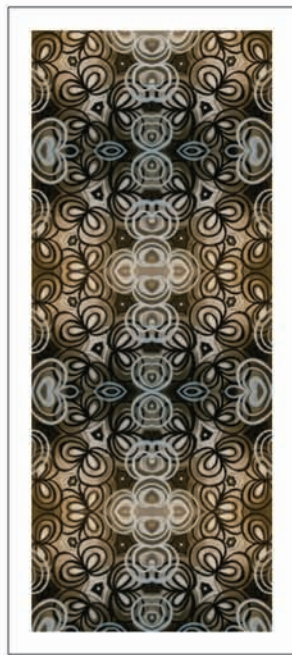
Panel 1, Digitally Printed Silk, 28"x70"



Panel 2, Digitally Printed Silk, 28"x70"



Panel 3, Digitally Printed Silk, 28"x70"



Panel 4, Digitally Printed Silk, 28"x70"

CHUKWAMA (CHUMA) OGUAGHA

ARTIST STATEMENT

Years of doing night construction work under New York City as a track worker have trained my eyes to see in the dark tunnel between art and life. Engineering is a sculptural process. Industrial and artistic labor is welded together. The Third Rail is a part of my daily environment, a real and metaphoric power that both produces and destroys. This installation asks the viewer to experience these paradoxes.

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3rd Rail, Mixed Media, 15'x10'



Detail of 3rd Rail



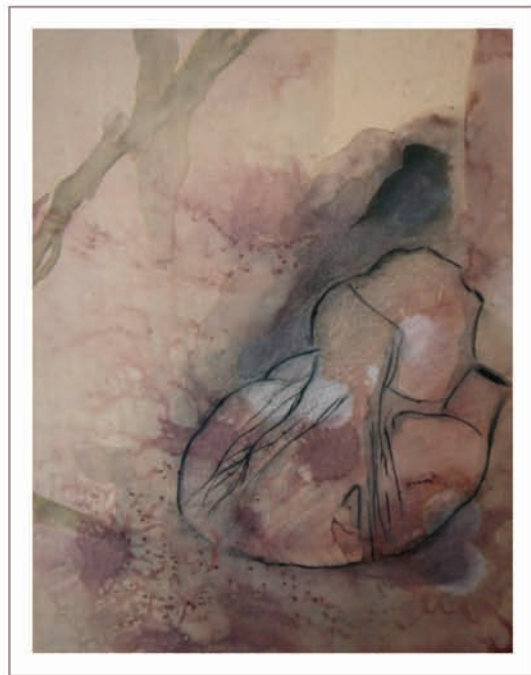
Detail of 3rd Rail

SINI
UNNI

ARTIST STATEMENT

My work takes inspiration from the relation of memories to objects and objects to memories. Personal symbolic iconography is an important element in my multimedia drawings. The imagery evokes an experience or an event from my history that has resurfaced in the present. These often fragmentary or ghostly drawn images are washed with translucent, bleeding colors to create a balance between control of the materials and spontaneous or chance markings. By collecting and dispersing these details across the paper I am able to connect my past and present experiences, ultimately accepting what I have endured even as others have tried to distort and erase my memories.

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Get Well Soon (Detail), Graphite and Ink, 23"x29"



Our Companion (Detail), Graphite and Ink, 23"x29"



Security Blanket (Detail), Graphite and Ink, 23" x 29"

SCHOOL OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

C.W. POST CAMPUS

