

Nola Avienne

Born Lawton, Oklahoma

Member since 200

Online at www.nolaavienne.com

Eccentric materials, unexplainable mechanical operations, peculiar and disturbing forms: Nola Avienne's work exerts an ambiguous push/pull of emotion. Would her ongoing fascination with magnetism be the explanation?

Beginning first with rare earth magnets and iron filings, she has over the last three years explored the forms that iron takes when exposed to magnetism. Through painting, sculpture and then kinetic work, her pursuit has finally led to a more personal and body-based investigation: the iron in blood.

Iron is a metaphor for hardness, but that's a mask for underlying fragility; iron ultimately breaks down and decays. Avienne sees this delicacy in the precise balance of iron in our bodily fluid. The viewer is surprised to discover what her medium actually is after savoring its subtle colors and textures.

These oppositions give her work a complex potency and the viewer a sense of fascinated unease.

Avienne not only researched the historical and ritual practices of bloodletting, she has now become a certified practicing phlebotomist—performance art in itself, under the circumstances.

The mere thought of blood evokes strong reactions. Avienne's work engenders a powerful response as well as an ambivalent one; her penchant for duality remains. She uses "that connective tissue which we all share," as she describes it, to make work that elevates magnetism from literal to metaphorical, deeply personal levels.

Ellen Ziegler is an artist, curator, and a member of In Lieu Exhibit Space. In Lieu presents work by artists who look for connection and presence in local, national, and international art communities beyond what conventional exhibition venues provide.

Profile by Ellen Ziegler



small conversation
2006
Carved poplar, acrylic, magnets & iron filings
13 x 38 x 9 in.
Courtesy of the artist and
Catherine Person Gallery



Fig. 2 2008 Blood on paper 4 x 6 in. Courtesy of the artist and Catherine Person Gallery

Vaughn Bell

Born Syracuse, New York

Member since 2006

Online at www.vaughnbell.net

Conventionally, landscape is outside, it is experienced a certain way, through our forests, national parks, seashores, and even our lawns. What this description illustrates is that landscape is in fact a cultural rather than natural concept; it is what we, its settlers, name it to be. Vaughn Bell takes this idea and uses it to shift the way we experience the construction we have named landscape. In Bell's work, comprised in part of Portable Biospheres, Land Adoptions and Surrogate Mountains, she makes visible the landscape as construct by turning it into a mediated gallery experience. When walking into a space exhibiting Bell's work, people become part of a performance, jolted out of the usual "hands off" art experience. Plexiglas domes hang in the galleries, planted with

various flora, which visitors can place their heads inside of. The experience inside the biospheres is exhilarating, it is both protective and alien, and smells like walking with your nose to the ground of a damp forest; you feel immediately oxygenated. Bell's work allows for an experience of nature within a temporary manmade system (unless you wear the helmet-sized biosphere around the city, or adopt a mini-sphere for your home). Once this "nose to the ground" effect wears off, viewers are left to ponder the lasting result of such a phenomenal shift of sensory perception. In the end, Bell's work allows her viewers to see anew the ground beneath their feet, turning the landscape from lawn to experience, and that is a lasting change.

Denise Markonish (BA, Brandeis University; MA, Center for Curatorial Studies, Bard College) is the curator at MASS MocA, where her most recent exhibition Badlands: New Horizons in Landscape is on view until April 12, 2009, accompanied by a catalog published by MIT Press. Previously Markonish was the Gallery Director/Curator at Artspace in New Haven, CT and has taught at the University of New Haven and the Rhode Island School of Design.

Profile by Denise Markonish



Life Becomes a River

The space becomes a microcosm of the surrounding landscape with a river of rice straw and video projections to walk through and around. 2007

Rice straw, fabric, paper, wood, video projection and sound, site specific installation in Kamiyama. Japan

14 x 4 x 15 meters Courtesy of the artist Photo: Chie Naito

Village Green (Personal Biospheres)

2008

Acrylic, hardware, plants, soil

Five biosphere installation, dimensions variable Courtesy of the artist

Photo: Kevin Kennefick



Surrogate Mountains' Berkshire Vacation

Tiny scale models of Mt. Rainier pop up out of the ground in a location distant from the peak to which they refer. 2008

Porcelain, steel, installation at Berkshire Botanic Gardens $14 \times 4 \times 15$ meters

Dimensions variable, each mountain $5 \times 4 \times 5$ in. Courtesy of the artist



Jana Brevick

Born Ogden, Utah

Member since 200

Online at www.janabrevick.com

"There are a number of jewelers whom I believe are already creating the 'next moment' in jewelry... among them are Jana Brevick..."

Bruce Metcalf Metalsmith Magazine, 2004

Metalsmiths transform materials. They begin with gold and create rings. They begin with silver and create "potato chip" necklaces. They begin with modular plugs and sockets and create wedding rings. They begin with Nixie tubes and create necklaces.

Well, not all metalsmiths. But in one case, all of the mentioned transformations have happened at and by the hand and heart of noted metalsmith, Jana Brevick.

In the past three years, Jana has expanded her wearable sculptures until they grace entire rooms and walls. Jana transforms ideas of communication, observation, and surveillance into interactive sculpture. The observer translates the sculptural images into his or her own story. The observer's ideas play off the artisan's ideas. The smallest, most delicate wire perhaps becomes for the observer, that which observes. Who is watching whom? Why?

Profile by Karen Lorene

Jana has created the means by which you can create your own story. As so well put in an essay about Jana, "...her work is experimental in nature and allows for her humor to shine through undisturbed by conventional application of materials or techniques." (Hahn Rossman, *SOIL 2006*.)

About Jana's work: wear it, push it, pluck it, install it. Most of all, enjoy it. She invites you into her world. She invites you to play. She insists you participate. And appreciate—who else would name an installation, 'Thanks, Wavelength' and mean it?

Karen Lorene lives for the arts. She is owner of Facere Jewelry Art Gallery, her first passion, which creates a vehicle for dozens of artists to share their unique studio jewelry work. With the same dedication, she sits on the board of the Artist Trust. In her free time, she endeavors to publish her first novel.



Cactus Antenna

2008
Sterling silver and copper 7 x 1.125 x 1.75 in.
Courtesy of the artist
Photo: Doug Yaple



Thinking of you 2008 Sterling silver and copper 1.75 x 1.75 x 3 in. Courtesy of the artist

Photo: Doug Yaple



2.5 x .5 x 4.5 in. Courtesy of the artist Photo: Doug Yaple

Chris Engman

Born Bellingham, Washington

Member since 2004

Online at www.chrisengman.com

The act of methodical construction is central to Chris Engman's work, often in the physical structure he laboriously creates in response to a place—and always in the painstaking construction of the final photographic image, comprising an elegant dance between a physical reality and the unique way photography "sees."

The details are at center stage. In the diptych Location, Relocation (2008), a seemingly haphazard array of debris from packing crates—the leftovers of a routine industrial happening—appears in two different physical settings, as if the pile of wooden fragments were somehow teleported to a new, yet similar, location, or as if a manmade background of shipping containers were lifted from the scene by a god's hand, to reveal a marginally less manmade treescape. A cursory further investigation shows the result of what is in fact a sort of slow teleportation: the artist relocated the crate fragments to a new, nearby location, then re-created the quasi-random structure—including the exact positions of the sun's shadows and the precise placement of each plank.

In Mound (2008), a found pile of rooted trees—the carcass from the making of a field—is given the austere treatment of Bernd and Hilla Becher's typological photographs of water towers

or grain elevators, again rendering the

mundane and discarded as sublime.

In Engman's view, in opposition to the Bechers' supposed mission, any claim of absolute objectivity in photography is illusory. In his images it is the presence of the individual, along with the camera's skewed way of altering an image of reality, which are key, the sublime subjective. In *Empty Structure* (2008), an arch with a skin of orange barricade plastic stands enigmatically in an urban industrial setting. With an infinite focus and clarity normally unattainable to the human eye, this image of the ephemeral exudes a monumentality usually reserved for the permanent.

Engman describes his meticulous working process as meditative, rewarding a highly attuned relationship to careful, detailed observation. The resulting images infuse a similarly rewarding experience in the viewer, instructing an awakened connection to what is around us.

Thom Heileson is a Seattle-based artist and designer, and a member of SOIL. He has written for the *Organ Review of the Arts* and *Plazm*.

Profile by Thom Heileson





Location, Relocation 2008

Inkjet prints 60 x 22 in. each print Courtesy of the artist and Greg Kucera Gallery



Mound

2008 Inkjet print

Courtesy of the artist and Greg Kucera Gallery



Empty Structure

2008 Inkjet print 48 x 38 in.

Courtesy of the artist and Greg Kucera Gallery

Thom Heileson

Online at www.thomheileson.com

Artists and physicists both question the complexities of everyday life. Their visions and ideas surface from laboratories and studios transforming abstract manifestations into tangible vehicles used to shape worldview. Space and time continue to provoke investigation from a scientific and artistic perspective, creating a narrative and understanding of how humans interact with their environment. Thom Heileson's work approaches these very ideas.

In the print Ghost Space: Arcade (2007), the underbelly of a West Seattle Bridge is captured in roughly sixty different photographs taken on the same day. Transformation and time passing seems evident, yet not conveyed through a sequential reference but through a composite of various moments in time. Although not intentional by the artist, corresponding reflections on Albert Einstein's theory that time is relative come to mind. Einstein's theory considers the observer as a participant in the equation. Similarly, Heileson's images encourage the viewer to engage in creating a sense of time relative to his or her own experience.

In the work Ghost Space: Meshwork (2008), multiple photographs of construction sites were taken over several months. Different buildings are melded together, giving the illusion that the structure is one building undergoing construction. Without physically activating the body, the viewer has a sense of time passing. Heileson's work breathes life into what appears fixed. In the video installation Free Dissociation (2007), a piece developed in collaboration with Wyndel Hunt, a menagerie of abstracted urban landscapes simulate the rush of city life. Isaac Newton's theory on "absolute time" also states that it

cannot be experienced without "absolute rest."

pronounced in relation to the rapid movement

Here the observer's stillness becomes more

within the video, while in Meshwork, the

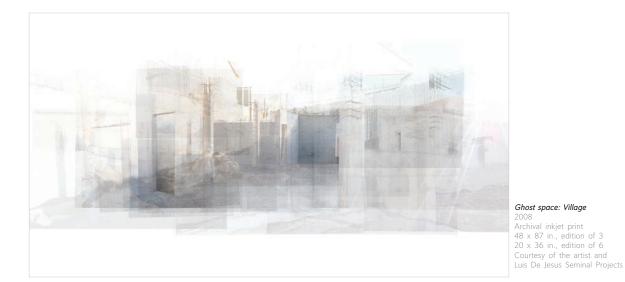
stable point of view is in contrast to the

quick passage of time in several images.

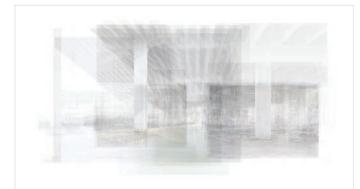
Whether time is considered relative or absolute, a sense that our perspective on the landscape never rests is certain.

> Tracey Fugami is an independent curator and writer residing in Seattle. Past contributions include Afterimage, Sculpture Review, and Art Papers.

Profile by Tracey Fugami



Ghost space: Village Archival inkiet print 48 x 87 in., edition of 3 20 x 36 in., edition of 6 Courtesy of the artist and



Ghost space: Arcade

Archival inkiet print 48 x 87 in., edition of 3 20 x 36 in., edition of 6

Courtesy of the artist and Luis De Jesus Seminal Projects



Thom Heileson and Wyndel Hunt Free Dissociation

Three channel DVD video installation with stereo audio Courtesy of the artists

Ben Hirschkoff

Born San Diego, California

Member since 2006

Online at www.benhirschkoff.com

In his installation *The Sky is Not Falling*, a paneled sky of blue polylaminate plated with Plexiglas clouds is held by thin pipes over vinyl grass. In *Clad Cloud*, cartooned clouds are formed by sheets of aluminum and rubber bolted together like an armored vehicle. In *Attempted Rain Mechanical Refrain*, electric motors troll wire rain that pings and scratches over a metal surface.

The sky is flat, the earth artificial. Clouds are heavy, sharply focused and nailed to a wall. Rain doesn't come down in sheets—it hangs down in stiff threads of metal. Hirschkoff's world is not a world—it's a stage.

Like cheap imitations of the real thing, his pieces proudly serve as unconvincing stand-ins for reality. Theatrical, cheeky, exaggerated, they are intentionally inept facades, delightfully bad props reminding us of the hopeless but relentless desire to hold a reality as dynamic and amorphous as vaporized air, as encompassing as a sky. His works poke fun at our ultimately

Profile by Erin Kendig

ineffective means of representation: clouds are rendered through friendly, archetypal symbols; the emptiness between his sky and ground is the same unavoidable gap between metaphor and reality, the inevitable space between language and that which it attempts to represent. Through the use of salvaged materials—plastic, Plexiglas, metal, pipes and industrial tape—he comments on the inadequate and ridiculous materials we employ to recreate our world. His clouds will never be clouds, and we are reminded of the absurdity of identity, the comical attempts we make to recreate that within ourselves and that without. With his flat plastic sky, metal clouds, and wire rain. Hirschkoff provides a farce through which we can laugh, lovingly, at our own poorly written parts.

Hirschkoff's world, his stage, is a landscape of beautiful futility.

Erin Kendig is an artist and the Publishing Coordinator at ARCADE magazine. She graduated from the University of Washington with a B.A. in English Literature in 2006.



Clad Cloud 2008 Aluminum, rubber, fasteners 22 x 32 in. Courtesy of the artist





Attempted Rain Mechanical Refrain

Salvaged aluminum and plastic, wire, light-box, flame light-bulbs, electric motors, motion sensor, contact microphone, amplifier, headphones H 49 x W 96 x D 11 in.

Courtesy of the artist

Etsuko Ichikawa

Born Tokvo, Japan

Online at www.etsukoichikawa.com

Etsuko Ichikawa captures the notion of ephemeral phenomena and the passage of time in her vast series of sculptures that incorporate media such as glass, paper and plastic. Born in Tokyo but living in Seattle, Ichikawa has spent over ten years saturated within the sweeping nature of the Northwest, but comfortably imports elements of Japanese culture, such as the psychological notion of the collective unconscious, which reflect the homogeneity found throughout the country of Japan. By creating performative abstractions, Ichikawa builds upon the region's history of abstract art creating a distinct echo that resonates visually with the local environment.

The Deai series, for example, was initiated in 2004 and involved the artist's quick application of molten glass across the surface of paper. Much like a pyrograph, the heat ignites a flame on the fibrous surface and forces the artist to move fast, like a Surrealist acting out automated drawing. The dark brands left behind look like random sketches that bear reference to nothing but the performance that created it.

Profile by Jill Conner

Ichikawa also sculpts complex forms from glass that moves the material away from its connection to craft. The Funiki series, also started in 2004, captures an array of objects within glass shells that bear a strong resemblance to bell jars. However the Kokoro series, began in 2002, is also striking because it makes a real jump from the second dimension into the third.

"Kokoro" means feeling, and in this instance Ichikawa uses plastic piping that interlaces with itself in order to transform the flat drawings from her sketchbook. Inspired by the drawings that she makes daily before going to bed, Ichikawa openly portrays the abstract process as an integral component of our neurological instincts.

Etsuko Ichikawa has exhibited widely throughout the Northwest since 2000. While much of her work is ongoing, her ideas lead to other forms that take on new life. Most recently she participated in a group show at the James Cohan Gallery in New York titled Postcards from the Edge, and had her first museum solo show at the Bellevue Arts Museum titled Traces of the Molten State in the fall of 2008.

> lill Conner is a critic based in New York City and is the New York Contributing Editor for Contemporary Magazine.



Fluid Moment Glass pyrograph on paper 4.5 x 33 ft. Courtesy of the artist



Traces of the Molten State

Glass pyrograph and digital projection

Courtesy of the artist



Trace 408 2008 Glass pyrograph on paper 30 x 22 in. Courtesy of the artist



Claire Johnson

Born Bangkok, Thailand

Online at www.clairejohnsonart.com

Profile by **Esther Luttikhuizen**

I first encountered Claire Johnson's artwork while jurying CoCA's (Center on Contemporary Art) 2003 Northwest Annual. One figurative piece was particularly arresting: it pictured a beautiful young woman peacefully reclining in a tub of pale green water amid a scattering of suds. The scene was tranguil, the colors were exquisite, and the delicate rendering of the sudsy water was impressive. Closer observation revealed bleeding cuts along the woman's breasts and groin. Was I, as viewer, intruding on some mysterious ritual of a self-harmer? The painting demonstrated a masterful synthesis of the sinister and sublime that captivated me and has stayed with me to this day.

In 2007, I had the opportunity to show an entirely different, more lighthearted body of Johnson's work in an exhibit at University of Puget Sound's Kittredge Gallery. Johnson was painting doughnuts. Isolated and centered on square plywood panels of varying sizes, in each painting a single doughnut confronted the viewer like a target. Scale, color, and the flavor of gooey toppings were the only variations among these paintings. Demonstrating the same skilled handling of paint as the earlier disturbing works, the doughnuts were contemporary kitsch with an in-your-face Pop feel.

Observing and recording has been central to Johnson's work. Most recently, her focus has widened and turned to landscape as subject matter, depicting (in oils on canvas) aerial views of broad territorial expanses. A patchwork of organic shapes depicts undulating terrain intersected by occasional roads—symbols of human incursion. At mid ground, between the viewer and distant land, wispy clouds drift-by, anchoring a sense of space. The horizon less landscape has opened, among other things, the opportunity to explore the formal relationship between realism and abstraction.

Standing at the sidelines and observing the development of Johnson's work from haunting psychological close-ups to formal landscape studies, I am impressed by the agility and balance she demonstrates. Moving through distinctly separate bodies of work, Claire Johnson has communicated empathy, respect, and humor, while never losing sight of the formal concerns of a maturing painter.

Esther Luttikhuizen is a Seattlebased independent curator and public art project manager.





road and cloud 2008 Oil on canvas 36 x 36 in. Courtesy of the artist



2008
Oil on canvas
36 x 36 in.
Courtesy of the artist

*lake*2008
Oil on canvas
36 x 36 in.
Courtesy of the artist

Margie Livingston

Born Vancouver, Washington

Online at www.margie.net

Margie Livingston's paintings—convergences of line, space, and color—may seem purely nonobjective. But, until recently, these works have been based on meticulous observation of natural forms: branches enclosed in intricate frameworks of string. Mining these structures for their color and linear possibilities, Livingston has created paintings that have been praised for their formal and metaphoric associations with nature.

Now, the branches are gone.

For her latest paintings, Livingston uses only the string frameworks. In comparison with the organic irregularity of the branches, these grid-like cubes of white yarn might seem too precise and monotonous. But, hanging in her studio, the lines sag and dip down and up from knot to knot, providing curving, bodily associations reminiscent of Eva Hesse's sculptures. There is ample variety of line for Livingston to select from as she paints. As for color, the white strings catch the light, generating a range of local and reflected color.

Profile by Gayle Clemans

Livingston designs a unique set-up for each painting: certain positions for the model and lights, colored gels for some bulbs, and, always, natural light. She adjusts the variables, the height of the canvas, and where she stands until she perceives "a certain sensation of light in space." This integral part of her process allows Livingston "to think about the paintings in three-dimensional space and how that space is organized." Her excitement about light and color in space is underscored by the slightly looser quality of her new work.

But her recent paintings also retain qualities of her former work: layered yet spare compositions in which every line matters; a balance of surface interest and complex depth; marvelous color modulations and contrasts; and a specificity of marks that coexists with a sense of limitlessness. You can get blissfully lost in these paintings—the guideposts of natural forms are not required.

Gayle Clemans is an art historian and writer who contributes regularly to *The Seattle Times*. Her essays on artists and maps are featured in *cARTography*, to be released in fall 2009. An instructor at Cornish College of the Arts, Clemans is completing her Ph.D. in art history at the University of Washington... any day now.



Daylight with red and yellow gels

60 x 44 in. Courtesy of Seattle Portable Works Photo: Richard Nicol

Kiki MacInnis

Born New Haven, Connecticut

Member since 200

Online at www.kikimacinnis.com

One could happily accept Kiki MacInnis' drawings as peaceful satisfying formal studies of nature—shape, color, mark. But what intrigues me is the subtle but strong tension running throughout the work. Much of the tension is resonance with the work's very peacefulness. (Much like a scratched itch, satisfying, yet often itching more.)

The work creates tension by eliciting questions. Are we looking at animal flesh or muscular plants like sycamore, madrona, yam or other tubers (mandrake)? Or maybe we are looking at an otherworldly combination of the two—planimal? Additional tension resides in my desire to know where I am looking. There are enough perspectival devices to convince me that I am looking someplace. In some of the work gravity is questionable. We could be looking into outer space or a liquid realm. But where?

In these drawings, as in photography, cropping is a primary act. Kiki uses it to reinforce the ambiguities. We don't get enough information to lock down what we are seeing or where it is. The answer seems to lie just outside. If only we could just see over there, two inches beyond the edge... At times I get the odd sensation that the artist is playfully teasing me. Maybe the ambiguities allow the art to transact in our minds and thus be complete.

Profile by Dan Loewenstein

Kiki has chosen a fairly binary tonal system to create space and volume. It is akin to the reductivist tools used in cartoons and comics. She has made these drawings on glassine, a material meant for archival storage and appropriated here for its inherent properties. We see the image in/on/through the thin translucent skin-like membrane of the glassine. It reinforces the link between the images of flesh under skin and the physical nature of the drawing.

The ink as it dries wrinkles and puts waves in the paper. We are brought back from wrestling with the questions in the imagery to the pleasure of the drawings' physicality, clearly an essential aspect of the work. As Kiki aptly said in preparation for this writing, "the color is delicious."

Dan Loewenstein is an artist residing in the Seattle area. He taught art and sculpture at Washington University (St Louis), Ohio University and the University of Washington.



Golden Sky 2008 Ink and acrylic on glassine 18 x 24 in. Courtesy of the artist Photo: Richard Nicol



Figure in a Landscape

2008
Ink and acrylic on glassine
18 x 24 in.
Courtesy of the artist
Photo: Richard Nicol

Saya Moriyasu

Born Portland, Oregon Member since 2006

Online at http://homepage.mac.com/sava

In 2000 Moriyasu presented *Crowded Craft*; consisting of two narrow china cabinets stuffed with a litany of pinch-pots and figurines, this particular show focused on the object as well as curious glaze-painted faces and empty smiles. From this foray into ceramics Moriyasu began teasing out the fine line between art and craft, sculpture and trinket, as well as the utilitarian and the decorative

Service, from 2002, lent personalities into small objects that carried names such as "Waiter," "Hostess," or "Ginger Pot." Objectifying people bumps up against broader sociopolitical arguments but Moriyasu's art delves into ideas about class and consumption, reflecting a harmony that coexists simultaneously between life, people and art. Lamplight Lavish Gathering, from 2005, once again focused on the cluttered table but this time featured figurines as lamp bases, who would wear halos that were in fact lamp shades. The material and the spiritual as well as the mundane and lofty collide within Saya Moriyasu's ceramics.

In 2006 the artist ventured into a collaborative installation (she has done several before 2000) project titled, Hardline Organics, that featured an array of tiny miniatures within a larger setting. Toying with the contrast between miniature and gigantic, Moriyasu revealed her own affirmation that art is a constant within our daily lives. Her most recent piece, Sweet Hello (2008), took the shape of a chandelier yet looked like a Buddhist mandala when seen directly from below. Doll-like faces are spaced out on wire between larger red, orange, yellow, and green spheres and carry an ancestral stare, suggesting the totemic. With symbolism a total mystery, Moriyasu exploits the notion of craft through oddly cute forms. While the hand made object has long been brushed off into the realm of utilitarian craft, Saya Moriyasu breaks down this concept into abstract forms that look vulnerable and yet suggest a being in everything.

> Jill Conner is a critic based in New York City and is the New York Contributing Editor for Contemporary Magazine.

Profile by Jill Conner



Sweet Hello 2008 Porcelain bells and spheres, ceramic, glaze, underglaze, steel, stainless steel, bamboo 9 x 9 x 9 ft. (upper); 4 in. x 2 ft. x 2 ft. (lower fan stand—not shown) Courtesy of the artist and G. Gibson Gallery Photo: Richard Nicol

Waiting

2008
Ceramic, wood base, glaze, acrylic, lamp parts, 1/2 chrome mirror 60 watt light bulb 11 x 12.5 x 12.5 in. Courtesy of the artist and G. Gibson Gallery Photo: Saya Moriyasu



Girl in Balcony

2008
Ceramic, glaze, underglaze
6 x 5 x 2 in.
Courtesy of the artist and
G. Gibson Gallery
Photo: Saya Moriyasu



Yuki Nakamura

Born Kagawa, Shikoku Island, Japan

Member since 1998

Online at www.howardhouse.net

Yuki Nakamura is an anomaly in an art world enamored with visual trickery and conceptual summersaults. She, in contrast, achieves depth by scaling back and embracing the subtle and the guietly sensual. Nakamura operates among several overlapping traditions; her clear forms and design sensibility seems decidedly Japanese, yet she is also firmly entrenched in the northwest ceramic tradition—she takes from both but commits to neither. Although ceramics comes with an array of craft connotations, Nakamura comfortably moves beyond the medium's history and expectations, creating sculptures that are both minimal in form yet emotionally charged, and lately, incorporating video and animation.

Nakamura's objects are metaphors for the impossible, and the metaphorical overcoming of that impossibility. Over the years, she has mapped tree bark, reinvented cities, and made architectural clothing. Islands and maps recur again and again as richly layered markers of both home and isolation, but Nakamura moves from the personal to the universal as she expands her own connection to the island as geography and emotional metaphor, towards its formal and aesthetic implications; the island as positive and negative space, the map as line and color.

Profile by Sara Callahan

Dream Suspended featured 36 soccer balls hanging from the ceiling as a memorial to her soccer coach brother. Bruised and partly deflated, the balls are frozen in cool hard porcelain; their function drastically divorced from their mnemonic potential. In her most recent work. Nakamura cast hundreds of antique and contemporary light bulbs; an intensely sensual reflection on electricity, the wonder of human invention, and our relationship to light. The porcelain bulbs are solid and opaque, and seen together they are stunning mass of impossible objects. Filament, a commission for Seattle City Light, consists of hundreds of these bulbs on which an animation of drawn filament shapes are projected, electricity reflecting on electricity in a richly evocative juxtaposition of three-dimensionality and line, both philosophical and moving.

In Nakamura's hands, even the most beautiful object can conjure up the rawest of emotions; a light bulb becomes deeply erotic and a collection of soccer balls become a tender meditation on death and the fragile materiality of the human body.

Sara Callahan has spent most of her adult life traveling and working around the world; since arriving in Seattle in 2005, she has worked at various galleries and is currently associate director at Howard House Contemporary Art.

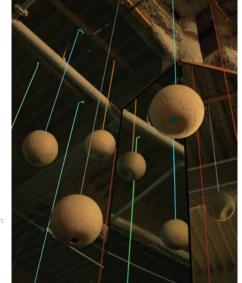


Illuminant
2008
Porcelain, light box
H 10 in. x W 9 in. x D 12 in.
Courtesy of the artist and Howard House Contemporary Art



200

Porcelain, electroluminescent wire, mirror H 13 ft. x W 8 ft. x D 8 ft. Installation project with All Nations Cup 2008, Seattle, Washington Courtesy of the artist and Howard House Contemporary Art



Nicholas Nyland

Born Lakewood, Washington

Member since 2004

Online at www.nicholasnyland.net

Tacoma artist Nicholas Nyland is not afraid of color. His pigment-dripping watercolors, canvas floor cloths, and lumpen papier-mâché sculptures were seen most recently at Lawrimore Project. A fanciful, over-big object called *Time Machine* occupied a room at Tacoma's The Helm Gallery in 2007. A collaboration with artist Ellen lto, Nyland "wanted to create a gigantic painting that you could walk into."

With an MFA from the University of Pennsylvania, Nyland has shown in galleries from Portland to Seattle. As a member of SOIL gallery, his work has been seen at Aqua Art Miami as well.

"What links a lot of my work is an interest in painting," Nyland explains, "both the material and mechanics and the impulse and act of painting. There is also a playfulness... both with formal means and historical precedents and sources."

Profile by Adriana Grant

Nyland's floor cloths are generous with color, layered one pigment over the next, while his paintings often contain quite a bit of negative space: skinny, bright lines of pigment stretch across a vast whiteness. "The oil painting *Hammock...* looks to me like what would happen if you shook a painting and the marks became tangled and twisted."

Gallery owner Scott Lawrimore appreciates this sense of experimentation. "I picked his work," Lawrimore says, "precisely because he was executing a version of painting that was no longer restricted to the walls. I saw in the floor cloth a nice reference to the 'action' painting of Pollock, while still working in a visual language and technique that was all his own."

Adriana Grant is a freelance writer whose work can be found in Seattle Weekly, City Arts magazine, and art Itd. She writes predominantly about visual arts (and food) though a recent essay in City Arts Seattle covered a ride with Critical Mass. She lives in Seattle.





Sam

2008 Oil an

Oil on canvas 45 x 50 in. Courtesy of the artist; photo by the artist



2000

2008

Papier-mâché, acrylic, rope, aluminum chain 19 in. (diam) x 27 in. (high)

Courtesy of the artist; photo by the artist

Nicholas Nyland and Ellen Ito Time Machine

008

Paint, cardboard, wood, party light string (inside: afghan ottomans, vintage light fixture)

Approx. 10 x 16 x 8 ft.

Courtesy of the artist; photo by the artist

Vesna Pavlović

Born Kladovo, Serbia

Online at www.vesnapavlovic.com

Each home has a personality, and some personalities are demonstrably better than others. Will you go and gossip with your housemaid, or your stable-boy, when you may talk with queens and kings?

This is the reason we are renowned as Masters of Elegance: we are not ashamed to flaunt a record of success that proves we bring higher perceived values & higher realized values by means of our attractively unique stagings of ideal domesticity.

Aesthetic or otherwise, we can show you that the difference between a dwelling and a palace is never absolute; the stable-boy and king are both men, and both deserve that clean and vibrant 'welcome home' feeling that is the result of tasteful furnishings, well-circulated air, and the elimination of unresolved adjacencies. Same for the housemaid and queen. Our tradition of excellence ensures that your property will project the sophisticated personality that before seemed only a dream.

Casey Smith

Show Homes, produced in 2006-07, presents images of model houses shot in various locations in the U.S. Resembling film sets, this series extends themes prevalent in Pavlovic's earlier series, Hotels, Sculpture Gardens, Watching, and Collection/ Kolekcija. These themes include audience and performance, and issues of taste set in different anthropological contexts. The elaborate homes are meticulously arranged for prospective buyers, revealing shifting boundaries between private and public space in the U.S. Within the Display, Desire

installation, the prints simultaneously function as images of display and display of images. Strange details of the American home are exposed, through the language of cinema and mechanisms of projection. The projection of black and white transparencies onto semi-transparent Plexiglas screens suggest the plastic quality of the interiors, and within the overlapping projection spaces, the images transform, exploring possible representations of the photographic medium itself. Six Color Transparencies is an instance of this exploration of materials used in installation.

> Casev Smith is a writer and where he teaches at the Corcoran College of Art + Design. He in Office Taste (Belgrade: Skart 2005), a photography and book project that explored the dynamics of the corporate art collecting of Chase Manhattan Bank.



Lounge Corridor Show Homes series

Black and white fiber print, aluminum mounted with non-glare face-in Plexiglas

Courtesy of the artist and G Fine Art Gallery



Six Color Transparencies series

Color print, aluminum mounted with non-glare face-in Plexiglas

Courtesy of the artist and G Fine Art Gallery



Display, Desire

Photographic installation: two 35mm Kodak slide projectors; two carousels four sheets of Plexiglas (two red and two semi-transparent white, 48 x 56 in. each); handmade projector advance unit Dimensions variable Courtesy of the artist and G Fine Art Gallery

Chauney Peck

Born Tacoma, Washington

Online at www.chauneypeck.com

Profile by Luis De Jesus

Sweet but Tragic

Did you hear the one about the trash avalanche that killed hundreds of scavengers in the Philippines? The mountain they were living and working on was a landfill—a man-made structure mimicking a real mountain. How about the mountain in Switzerland that was covered by its inhabitants with a hi-tech Mylar blanket to prevent snowmelt? Or the trees in Alaska that would explode due to rapid temperature change if they weren't artificially warmed at night with streetlights?

There is nothing conventional about these stories, which may be a big clue to understanding the attraction that they have for the artist Chauney Peck and their influence upon her work. After all, she herself is a pretty unconventional person. From her education at Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington, to her jaunts through impoverished Central American villages and pilgrimages through our own down-and-out urban streets and alleys, Chauney Peck seems to go out of her way in order to confront the "reality" that most of us go out of our way to avoid. This is that slice of reality that rarely gets any playtime on TV or covered by the press, unless it's as a 15-second sound bite on the network evening news or as a gentle reminder on some short-lived political

commercial of what needs to be "fixed." Peck seems to say, "Take a look. No—a real look." What is it that we are actually seeing? How do we understand and come to grasp with the human element in these stories and pictures, beyond the comic or tragic element? And what lessons—for us as individuals and as a society—can be gleaned from them?

Chauney Peck's work mines this *terra incognita*, this "garbage patch," in which civilization after civilization has passed through and discarded their waste—human and otherwise. It is here that the opportunity to explore our relationship to resources and to each other, whatever their origins may be, exists—but from a new perspective. There is a rather touching and almost sad, redeeming quality to Peck's efforts. And if we look hard enough we will realize that it's not just our outcast debris that gets folded back into the natural world.

Luis De Jesus is director of Luis De Jesus Seminal Projects in San Diego, California. Working within a tradition of innovation and risk-taking, the gallery collaborates with emerging artists who are deeply engaged in issues of contemporary art practice—from post-feminine/masculine and multi-disciplinary/new-media issues—to those with particular resonance on the regional discourse, such as trans-nationalism, the border and globalization.



Busted Buick 2007-2008

Vinyl installation on wall 70 x 125 in. Courtesy of the artist and Luis De Jesus Seminal Projects





Lander Chairs

2008 Vinyl on paper 36 x 48 in. Courtesy of the artist

Plaid Cover

2008 Vinyl installation on wall 73 x 49 in. Courtesy of the artist

Renée Rhodes

Born St. Petersburg, Florida

Member since 2003

Online at www.reneearhodes.com

Renée Rhodes' work has humor and delicacy, but dig underneath the levitating figures, the teetering towers and ill-fated human pyramids and you find philosophical questions about the nature of free will, deconstructions of dance history and biting social critique.

A former ballet dancer trained in modern dance, art history and digital media, Rhodes uses dance and movement as the language of her videos, animations, photographs and sculptures. Her work has a charming oddball brilliance, in part because when it comes to dance, Rhodes is both an ardent critic and hopeless devotee.

Take Rhodes' version of *Don Quixote*, a ballet famous for its themes of idealism, integrity, and shameless exhibitions of virtuosity. Thanks to stop-animation, in Rhodes' *Don Quixote* dancers finally, hilariously, levitate—fulfilling 19th century ballet's aspirations for flight while rendering society's desire to thwart gravity vain and ridiculous.

Where Rhodes sees dance and movement, she also sees society's values and dynamics. In the mesmerizing *Machines* series, impeccably trained dancers become cogs in clever domino-like chain reactions. Despite

Profile by Tonya Lockyer

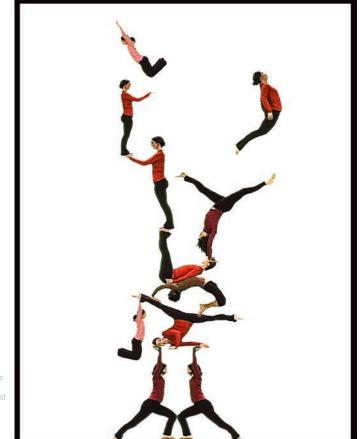
the endlessly repeating, elaborately precise choreography, the machines accomplish nothing. In *Determinist Dances* and *Remote Control*, untrained dancers surrender to absurdly controlled guidelines: choreographic commands via cell-phone, fleets of pelting ping-pong balls, or the collective responsibility to keep a balloon afloat. Are we bound to these conditions that propel or disincline us towards action and change? The performers' free will emerges or disappears within these finite rules and deterministic parameters.

Rhodes' small worlds have their own laws and logic. Bodies float overhead, or fly off into nothingness as gravity gives way. Two wobbly towers struggle upward, arcing together to support the levitation of a small piece of graphite. Rhodes achievement is how she exposes the absurdity of these quests for control and at the same time their luminosity. Beyond games, magic tricks and illusion, levitation belongs to mysticism and the timeless yearning for knowledge. Rhodes' dancers, climbers and seekers remind us that for better or worse, nothing moves us more than desire.

Tonya Lockyer is a Seattlebased dance artist and former program manager/curator for Velocity Dance Center. Her award-winning performance work has been presented in Europe, Russia. Canada and the U.S.



Our Own Kind of Gravity (video stills) 2008 Single channel video Dimensions variable



Tower

(video still detail) 2008 Single channel video Dimensions variable Courtesy of the artist

Adam Satushek

Born Bellingham, Washington

Member since 200'

Online at www.adamsatushek.com

Adam Satushek pays close attention to the ways that human beings influence their surroundings through the traces that are left behind and the impact on the landscape from behaviors, movements, and alterations. With sly humor, his photographs capture the odd and unintended intersections of common, forgotten objects with the natural environment; an environment which bears the mark of that uninvited partnership and then struggles mightily to maintain its dignity.

Satushek's close attention challenges us to do the same. The phrase, "the more one looks, the more one sees" perfectly describes the experience of looking at his images. What looks like a casually shot photograph is actually a tight, relational composition. In one photograph, *Horizon*, the horizon line depicted in a painted wall mural perfectly aligns with the actual horizon line in the distance. Puffy clouds float from the mural to the blue sky and both are reflected back up on a swimming pool's surface. Sunlight bounces off a balustrade with its mirror image on the still water. Everything connects...

...or unnerves. In another photograph, titled Miniature Golf, a strong horizontal band of dark threatening clouds teams up with an equally strong horizontal band of even more dark and threatening mountain rock. Cutting through the middle of the composition is a green oasis of trees which seem to hold back these threats from a group of people playing a round of miniature golf. Except the golf course looks damaged, strewn about with boulders and debris as if it has seen its share of threats come to life. Every pebble, leaf, even faraway parked cars are in absolute focus. Every inch of picture surface claims importance. The sharpness of the photograph both rivets and repels. Something is going on, one is not quite sure what—it probably isn't good, but one can't stop looking.

Through his large-scale photographs, Adam Satushek provides a place to stop and discover the intersection of the mundane and the unusual, which in fact happens all around, all the time. Luckily, he is paying attention.

Stephen Lyons is Co-Founder and Co-Director of Platform Gallery, a contemporary art space in Seattle, Washington.

Profile by Stephen Lyons



Miniature Golf
2006
Archival inkjet print
40 x 80 in.
Courtesy of the artist



Horizon 2008 Archival inkjet print 40 x 50 in. Courtesy of the artist



Pole
2008
Archival inkjet print
80 x 35 in.
Courtesy of the artist

Randy Wood

Born Hill Air Force Base, Utah

Member since 200

Online at www.randywoodart.con

Surreal, innocent-but-not beings inhabit the landscape of Randy Wood's work: sassy kitties, ghost rocks. Sure, they're funny, odd, even disarming. But make no mistake; these beings are more than anthropomorphic caricatures or animistic fantasia. They are Wood's instructive ciphers and avatars, always caught mid-moment, there in action to tell us something about the human condition.

Wood works in a variety of mediums comics, painting, sculpture—and exploits the strengths of each to render the strange, ephemeral moments of the human ilk. For Wood, the fleeting, feeling microcosm in which we swim is both straightforward and loaded, as demonstrated with Hugger (2008, sculpture). A cat-like creature covered in fun fur advances, half-emerged from the wall, arms outstretched in a fashion both playful and menacing, its movement underscoring the strange potential in human affection for both hazard and safety. Such an interest in the odd dimensions of human time and space does not result in a reductive myth or distilled "core" to the human condition; rather Wood points the viewer toward recognizing the larger narrative as variable and one in which they are knowing participants.

Panic, Dora! (2008, sculpture) exemplifies this emphasis on participation. A suspended armada of brightly-colored apparitions fly through space, unleashed from a box, in pursuit of their unwitting liberator: the curious, fleeing, kitty, Dora. By presenting

a moment of release between distinctly surreal beings, Wood puts a premium on the viewer tendering what came before, what comes after, what can be used to explain, what is left unanswered.

Wood is not misanthropic; the moments he presents are not warnings or morality tales. Neither is he a dewy-eyed optimist; the exuberance of his creatures may incite a laugh, but it's a Freudian giggle, unleashing ideas typically relegated to the unconscious. That is the perfect state in which to receive his illumination of the folly that distinguishes the Order *Primates*, Family *Hominidae*, Genus *Homo*, and Species *H sapiens*.

Cat Celebrezze lives in Brooklyn, New York. She writes (www. uramember.com) and laminates things (www.laminatedlove.com). Her fiction has appeared in *Thieves Jargon, Modern Words*, and *flashquake*; nonfiction has appeared in *Bunnyhop Magazine*, EXTRA!, and American Visual Cultures, an anthology published by Continuum.

Profile by Cat Celebrezze









fuzzhead2008
Fun fur, papier-mâché, acrylic paint
8 x 8 x 8 x 8 in.
Courtesy of the artist
Photo: Thom Heileson



2008

Papier-mâché, wood, foam core, spackle, acrylic paint Dora: H 20 x W 14 x D20 in.

Box: H 7.5 x W 11.5 x D 21 in.

Individual ghosts: H 10 x W 2.5 x D 2.5 in.

Installation dimensions variable

Courtesy of the artist

Courtesy of the artist Photo: Thom Heileson



Jennifer Zwick

Born Calgary, Alberta, Canada Member since 2003

Online at www.jenniferzwick.com

This work is from Jennifer Zwick's solo show, entitled *I'm So Scared/It's All So Hard*—a show about anxiety, awkwardness, and the accidental comedy of having a body. Zwick explores these themes through text and flesh, intellect and slapstick.

With the 38 inch neon sign *It Will (Never) Get Better,* the viewer pulls a chain to choose their current mood: "it will get better," "it will never get better." The construction of the sign, however, allows for both readings to always be present—even when not illuminated, the "never" is legible.

With the diptych *Hanging (front and back)*, Zwick depicts the comical awkwardness of having a body: a physically heavy, accidentally sexual object whose simple fact of gender, by definition, sexualizes all actions. "I am hanging awkwardly here," she says; it's a blunt and hilarious thing, to be flesh.

The comedy and tragedy of anxiety are presented in a more direct manner in her series *What Might Go Wrong: 100 Answers, 100 Etchings.* In its original installation, all 100 9 x 6 inch intaglio prints were displayed in a 9 x 6 foot grid. "Everyone might hate me and be right about it," "forget how to breathe," "face melts off at a party," "hit my resonant frequency and shatter," "headache is actually an aneurism," "evil twin," "kneecaps fall off," "get cancer just like my mom," "staple my finger"—the list is funny because it is so sad and honest and relatable.





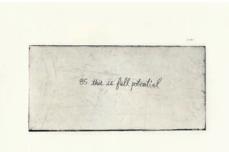
It Will (Never) Get Better
2007
(two views of installation)
Neon sign with two transformers for optimal mood indication
38 in. diameter
Courtesy of the artist





Hanging (front and back) 2007 Archival inkjet prints 40 x 40 in. each print Courtesy of the artist





What Might Go Wrong #84 & #85 2007 Intaglio prints 9 x 6 in. each print

Exhibitions, 2007-2008

January 5-28, 2007

Yielded

Debra Baxter Robert de Saint Phalle

Trobert de Saint Frie

Controlled Fire: Variations

Ben Hirschkoff

(January 5 - February 25, 2007)

February 2-25, 2007

L.A. Stories

Thomas Müller and Samantha Scherer

March 1 - April 1, 2007

More Dirt

Vaughn Bell Benjamin Hirs

Benjamin Hirschkoff

Susie J Lee Kiki MacInnis

Saya Moriyasu

A new members show

Rackspace Galler

More Volume

April 5–29, 2007

Our Nature

Gretchen Bennett and Yann Novak

Backspace Gallery

Constructed Narratives

Jennifer Zwick

May 3 - June 3, 2007

SuperHeroism:

The Adventures of TransitMan

Christian French

Also at SOIL May 24–27:

Bicycle Rehabilitation Project

A traveling interactive art piece by Michael Flaherty

June 7 – July 1, 2007

Crud

Nola Avienne

Claire Putney

Timea Tihanyi

Ellen Ziegler Susan Zoccola

Backspace Gallery

Technicallu Beautiful

Owen and Terry Plummer

Curated by Randy Wood

July 5–29, 2007

Home Sweet Home

Ross Sawyers

Brent Sommerhauser

Laura Ward

Curated by Matthew Mitros

Backspace Gallery:

From Sea to Shining Sea

Vaughn Bell

August 2-26, 2007

Groundtruthina

Margot Anne Kelley

Bruce Myren Tara Rodgers

Thom Heileson

Vaughn Bell

Sarah Kavage

Nicole Kistler

Curated by Vaughn Bell

Backspace Gallery

Mapping the Stick
Kiki MacInnis

September 6-30, 2007

Leather and Lace

Allison Manch and

Ariana Page Russell

Backspace Gallery:

Blush

Derrick Jefferies

October 4-28, 2007

I'm So Scared/It's All So Hard

Jennifer Zwick

Puget Sounds

Jean Nagai

November 2-30, 2007

Sensoria

lole Alessandrini, Ed Mannery, and Ben McAllister;

Thom Heileson and Wyndel Hunt

Backspace Gallery

a dozen small donuts and a couple of big ones

Claire Johnson

December 6-30, 2007

PUNCH + SOIL International Juried Exhibition:

A bell is a cup until it is struck

Gretchen Bennett

Sarah Bergmann

Jamey Braden

Collin Bradford

Mike Brav

Chris Fennell

Douglas Gast

Margo Geddes

Richard Gilles

Sol Hashemi

Florian Japp Danielle Kelly

Lisa Liedgren

Jenene Nagy

Brett Walker

Mary Wyatt

Juried by Eric Fredericksen

Presented in collaboration with PUNCH gallery

Backspace Gallery

Distance: (new photographic works)

Monica A. Padilla

January 3-27, 2008

Fire Retard Ants (Fred Muram and Mike Simi): We 8 Ourselves (for your Urgent Need)

Backspace Gallery

23 Sights

Brian Heileson

February 7 - March 1, 2008

Simultaneity: Entanglement

Eunsu Kang, Joel Kollin, and Juan Pampin

March 6-30, 2008

New Members Show 2008

Nola Avienne Vesna Pavlovic

Renée Rhodes

Adam Satushek

Backspace Ga Panic, Dora! Randy Wood

April 3-27, 2008

Soapland

Issei Watanabe

Backspace Gallery

Thanks, Wavelength lana Brevick

May 1 - June 1, 2008

The Sky Is Not Falling

Ben Hirschkoff

Backspace Galler

Provenance

Anonymous

June 5-29, 2008

Deep Space Punctuated by Planets

Matt Browning

Eric Elliott

Jonathan Hudak Whiting Tennis

Backspace Gallony

Transcript

Kiki MacInnis

July 3-31, 2008

Natura Naturans

Scott Bowering

Flora

Adam Satushek

August 6-30, 2008

Escape or Reflect!?

Tim Cross Erik Peterson

Eisuke Sato

Ceramics

Nicholas Nyland

September 3-27, 2008

tension

Andv Fallat

Kirk Lang

James Ryan

Curated by Nola Avienne

Oriental/Occidental

Saya Moriyasu

October 1 - November 1, 2008

SOIL@SOIL

Nola Avienne

Vaughn Bell

Jana Brevick

Chris Engman

Thom Heileson

Ben Hirschkoff

Etsuko Ichikawa

Claire Johnson

Margie Livingston

Kiki MacInnis

Saya Moriyasu

Yuki Nakamura

Nicholas Nyland

Vesna Pavlović

Chauney Peck Renée Rhodes

Adam Satushek

Randy Wood

View Lots

Ryan Molenkamp

October 17, 2008

SOIL Annual Art Auction

Laura Michalek, live auctioneer Lawrimore Project, 831 Airport Way South, Seattle

November 5-29, 2008

Bin Labs Presents: Second Growth

Rachel Hibbard, Sean Regan, and

Cara Tomlinson

Uri Aran

Josh Tonsfeldt

December 3-27, 2008

Just Drawinas

Sean Alexander

Kim E. Alexander Jr.

Darin Shuler

Kinu Watanabe

December 3-7, 2008

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