The Miller Gallery hosts ESCAPE PGH: Carnegie Mellon MFA Thesis Exhibition


“In the MFA program at Carnegie Mellon we encourage the exploration of every available territory for artistic practice,” writes John Carson, Regina and Marlin Miller Professor and Head of the School of Art at Carnegie Mellon. “These six emerging artists will delight the eye, stretch the mind, arouse the senses, warm your heart, touch your wallet and give you cause for concern. I would like to congratulate this year’s grad students, on the quality of their final show, the culminating achievement of their time here at Carnegie Mellon.”

Brian Brown paints inscrutable scenarios redolent of final screen sequences in a film, inhabited by strange characters in search of a reassuring narrative. “Like some great movies, single scenes are composed as though they are the film in its entirety. Look at Fellini. Better yet, watch any random five-minute clip of Otto e Mezzo and then try to turn it off. I can’t. When I start a painting I start with a scene in mind that I don’t want to forget.”

Amanda Long pulls us physically into a projected world of seductive imagery and invitational environments. In her kinetic video installations she aims to “expose the magic of how video technology works as light, a metaphor for overcoming the limitations of the physical self... moving my audience into a transcendent place.”

Leslie McArhren is ever the effervescent performer. She recognizes the cult of personality and acknowledges the relationship between art and commerce, setting up shop in some of the most unlikely places.

Gian Carlos Silva de Jesus is a sculptor whose art is in his engagement with strangers. “I am
interested in everyday situations that involve communication and confronting deep feeling. Collecting information from the internet, media and related quotidian memories, to create ‘Subliminal Confrontation’ on the street.”

Jonathan Trueblood satirically examines aspects of popular culture and macho representations in sport and media with drawings, photography, found imagery and text. “I believe in Hollywood, big-budget, blockbuster movies and being surrounded by the roar of a crowd in a sports stadium and the immersive feelings they both give me. I believe words like “awesome” and “cool” can, and should, be spoken in critical discourse, if used correctly.”

Derk Wolmuth’s ideal space is the igloo, yurt, garden shed or upturned boat. “With the commonest of materials and techniques a humble dwelling or even a vehicle can be built. Within it I am able to articulate the need to inhabit and the drive to explore.”

“ESCAPE PGH” will run from March 19-April 18, 2010, and a reception will take place on Friday, March 19, from 6-8pm. Artists' Talks with B. Brown, L. McAhren and G. C. Silva de Jesus will take place on the 3rd floor of the Miller Gallery on Thursday, March 25 from 1:30-4:30pm. Artists’ Talks with A. Long, J. Trueblood and D. Wolmuth will be on the 2nd floor of the Miller Gallery on Tuesday, March 30 from 1:30-4:30pm. All events are free and open to the public.

The Miller Gallery is located on the Carnegie Mellon campus in the Purnell Center for the Arts near the intersection of Forbes Ave. and Morewood Ave. The Miller Gallery is free of admission and open to the public Tuesday through Sunday from noon to 6 p.m. Visitor parking is available in the East Campus Parking Garage, located on Forbes Ave. just east of the Morewood intersection. For more information including images and downloads, visit http://www.cmu.edu/millergallery

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