BASEMENT MIRACLE
CARNEGIE MELLON 2013 MFA THESIS EXHIBITION
March 30 - April 21, 2013
Organised by CMU School of Art

Reception: March 29, Fri. 6-8pm
Critiques: April 4 + 18, Thurs. 6-9pm
They say that some people have gone into the basement of Carnegie Mellon’s Doherty Hall and never been seen again. It is a warren of twisting corridors and bewildering levels - a labyrinth of leftover spaces that no one seemed to know what to do with, until the art students arrived and made it their own. Just as artists renovate decrepit buildings and revitalize areas of urban neglect, so the graduate students of the School of Art, over time, have turned the basement floors of Doherty into an incubator of incredible creative activity. In subterranean classrooms, workshops and studios, they have performed their alchemy - ingeniously transforming everyday materials, objects, and devices into extraordinary constructions, challenging propositions, outrageous performances, political statements, conceptual conundrums, and imaginative imagery. Now, seven young artists are stepping into the light. Their work is presented for you in the 2013 MFA Thesis Exhibition. Behold the miracle of art.

John Carson
Head of the School of Art + Regina and Marlin Miller Professor, Carnegie Mellon University

SCOTT ANDREW is half-casket, half-human, with a league of tranny-child warriors at his beck and call. His interests include posthumanism, gender performativity, excess, and forms of masculinity. His environments generate confrontational and absurd immersive experiences with characters culled from parallel universes. His opulent fantasies draw from prelapsarian longing, fetish, and kitsch by recycling fashion, mythology, and items from his grandma’s attic. www.scottandrewrew.com

FELIPE CASTELBLANCO is an interdisciplinary artist working at the intersection of social engagement, interactive art, and new media art. Through urban interventions, video, and networked installations, his work creates participatory experiences and coexistent (if sometimes contentious) encounters across vast distances. Felipe is currently developing a body of work that imagines air as a material embodiment of the public sphere. www.felipecastelblanco.com

CRAG FAHNER is a sound and media artist from Calgary, Alberta. His work is centered on radical uses of interactive art, and new media art. Through urban interventions, video, and networked installations, his work creates participatory experiences and coexistent (if sometimes contentious) encounters across vast distances. Felipe is currently developing a body of work that imagines air as a material embodiment of the public sphere. www.craigfahner.com

STEVE GURYSH creates time-based and sculptural media that explore economies of energy, cycles of technological advancement and obsolescence, as well as sincere attempts to encourage the miraculous. By interlacing solitary expeditions with shared encounters, myth-making, and material science, his work invents a testing ground for abandoned pasts, alternative presents, and provocative futures. www.steavgurysh.com

LUKE LOEFFLER works with sculpture and code in response to the consumption, influence, and politics of personal technologies. His work explores the gap between our desires reflected through our tools and the disappointing reality they can unintentionally engender. Drawing on the past for methodological, material, and mystical inspiration, Luke creates systems that collide modern conditions with their historical counterparts, unveiling a relationship between man and tool that is timeless, complex, and paradoxical. www.lukeloffler.com

DAN WILCOX is an astronaut. NASA and commercial space companies will send humans to Mars by the 2030s on what may be a one-way trip. Would you go? Dan spent two weeks on a simulated Mars mission in the Utah desert, experiencing the hardship and excitement of extra-planetary exploration as research for a concept album and astronaut rock opera, robotcowboy: Onward to Mars. www.danomatika.com

ERIN WOMACK creates multimedia artworks that embody a series of imagined worlds. Together they form a singular fantasy realm that serves as a framework for mapping consciousness and reflecting the chaos of the human experience. In this semblance of our own world, hierarchies are called into question, rational thinking is suspended, and the forces of nature reign supreme. www.erin-womack.com

UPCOMING EXHIBITION
CARRIE CURTIN 2013 SENIOR ART EXHIBITION
Organized by CMU School of Art
May 4 - 18, 2013
May 3, 6-8pm: Opening reception

TOURING EXHIBITION
INTIMATE SCIENCE
Through March 21, 2013 at Real Art Ways, Hartford, CT
May 31 - Aug. 18, 2013 at Williamson Gallery, Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, CA
Sept. 7 - Nov. 30, 2013 at Paul and Lulu Hilliard University Art Museum, University of Louisiana, Lafayette

EVENTS
Reception:
March 29, Fri., 6-9pm
Critiques:
April 4, Thurs. 6-9pm: With guest Steve Dietz, president + artistic director, Northern Lights.mn.
April 18, Thurs. 6-9pm: With guest Daniel Baumann, co-curator, 56th Carnegie International.

Artists: C. Fahner, S. Gurysh, L. Loeffler, D. Wilcox
 Lump, Inc.
 Artists: F. Castelblanco, S. Andrew, E. Womack

Exhibition + events are free and open to the public.

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