

DISPERSAL TACTICS

2006 ARTSPACE DRAWING INVITATIONAL



RACHELE RILEY



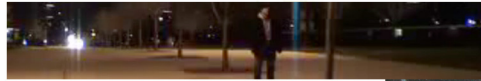
BRIAN BLOMERTH



JACQ CROWLEY



PETER BALDES



CHRIS BARR



SAYAKA SUZUKI

CURATED BY VAUGHN WHITNEY GARLAND AND RYAN MULLIGAN

ARTSPACE GALLERY opens with “Dispersal Tactics” on Friday May 26th 7:00 to 9:30. This “drawing” show by co-curators Vaughn W. Garland and Ryan Mulligan is an effort to discover what drawing can be both as a verb and a noun. Vaughn and Ryan, both M.F.A. graduates of Virginia Commonwealth University Painting and Printmaking Department, asked artists not normally associated with two-dimensional mediums to explore drawing issues in contemporary areas of practice and communication. **Brian Blomerth’s** large-scale installation is an obsessive infatuation with unicorn-horned narwhals and wizard beards. **Sayaka Suzuki** uses the power of perspective to travel through the walls of the gallery in a train, both figuratively and literally. **Peter Baldes**, professor of Digital Media for VCU, is cooling off the hotornot.com website with an oscillating fan, and drawing energy from computer monitors with solar cells, all in an effort to power a wind generated diorama. His poetic sculptures relish glitches and “faulty code.” If drawing is about movement, then **Rachel Riley’s** forceful flowcharts of conversations and encounters diagram emotional misunderstandings with a typographer’s sensibility. If drawing is accumulated marks then **Jacq Crowley’s** giant floating clover fields stake claim over the gallery walls. For the past two years Jack Crowley has covered yards in clover in an effort to discover what a weed truly is. And finally if drawing is about history, then **Chris Barr’s** videos are haunting meditations about death and grief filled with historical references in guttural honesty. In a set of 60 + videos Chris stands silently beside a tree for 17 minutes only to abruptly fall to the ground in a performance that references his brother’s suicide. The extreme weather conditions of Buffalo set the backdrop for a charged viewing experience.

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TO BRING BY ALLURE: Honey draws flies.



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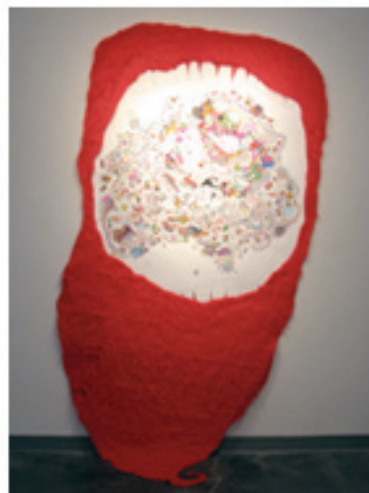
The WB Television Network

The *Gilmore Girls* is television for those in the know. Television about television that is open to admit that it watches other television and listens to both Tom Waits and 50 Cent, with a little Britney thrown in for good measure. Fast talking, sharp witted comedy of two best friends, who happen to be mother and daughter, instigate situations based on preference instead of morals. According to numerous reviews people watch for the references but get addicted to the characters.

"Hey my name is brian and welcome to my myspace homepage. I make music with the Narwhalz,2 live Spew, Elfquest 2.0, and Pawz Frawgz? I love playing music on the gameboy signal generator (square waves)and chillin' out. Livin' the 1337 h4x0rz life and bein' crazy thug. You know what I'm sayinnnnnnnnn? Duh."

www.myspace.com/unicornfriend

Dirtstyle is the appreciation of geeks and nerds. Plop a gradient color mass behind a few sparkles and you are Dirt. What makes **Brian Blomerth's** Dirt Style Drawings, songs, comics, and videos so unique is his mythology and references seemingly stem from an inner thirteen year old girl. Narwhals with giant unicorn horns, *Smurf* PG sexuality, stars, horses, and Pomeranian exist in a potty mouthed universe filled with product placements and clip art embellishments.



TO PULL FORTH : The patient's veins don't draw easily.



Photo: Making Death Mask

Library Of Congress Prints and Photos

On the Isle of St. Helena the Doctor Francesco Antommarchi held Napoleon Bonaparte's head in his arms and covered plaster of Paris on the late Emperor's face. In 1833, twelve years after the death of Bonaparte the first mask was issued and authenticated by Doctor Antommarchi. Why the long wait? Have you ever held the head of the most powerful man in the world?

There is a tombstone in Pittsburgh, resting on a hill made for sledding. In the summer you find flowers and in the winter cans of soup. Warhol's modest grave marker in Bethel Park is extremely easy to miss, beside his mother.

I want to say something honest about how much I respect this project of **Chris Barr's**. There should be an easy way to talk about the formal pictures projected through video, transporting us into cold Buffalo NY. Something about a western meditation on loss. But what I really want to write is that the first time I heard about this work I selfishly wanted to show it to as many people as possible. This private journey Chris makes over and over is honest.



TO SELECT FROM: The salesman drew us in.



Watercolor, Serpentine Garden

Library Of Congress Prints and Photos

An invitation onto the front porch is not an invitation into the house. Most importantly the opportunity to sit on a front porch should be continually thanked and respected. Any sign that the host is ready to leave means one has overstayed the welcome.



In 1978 in Atlanta, two men made fixing property sexy. The notion of a hardware store had long since become antiquated to a male only market. By the mid 80's Home Depot's sales were topping \$1 Billion annually. As the second largest retailer in America and the third in the world the cult of home improvement is quickly growing beyond the Self-Improvement crazes of the 80's. Total revenue for 2005 \$81.51 Billion. Homeownership is no longer the American dream. Home improvement is more accurate.

Jaq Crowley's work "I am Sincere. I am sincere. I am sincere." is a giant montage of tracings of back yards. Taken from two locations where her clover coverings have sprouted. These drawings are about reconnection with the site. Jac is walking by hand over the same stretches of land she painstakingly purged of any grass to leave an undulating bed of clover.

TO CLAIM SPACE: The Captain drew a line in the sand.



Map by George Washington

Library Of Congress Map Collection

Heliconians or Longwings are a black and yellow colored family of Butterfly. Many of these tropical animals feed on poisonous plants, and are thereby toxic.

Caution tape: also Warning Tape or Police Tape is a plastic sheet roll with everlasting yellow and black color used as a warning sign of dangerous areas.

According to historians, George Washington began drawing plans for his estate as a young boy. Only a few of these scale maps survive today, but many sources indicate that Washington's skills as a scout and Mapmaker for the French and Indian War gave him the skills to obsess accurately about proper land management.

Rachele Riley uses the term "Beyond Representation" when referring to the content of her drawings. She teaches typography and video, which make sense with her work. The drawings become natural versions of browser windows. A loopable experience of claiming territory, marking meanings, and guiding the marks are elemental to her work. Social history, or conversational history. Sh builds argument, a coy look, or walking conversations with annotated warnings and smudged ideas.



TO FORCE A MOVE: There were no positive options.



Photo "Bury Bunny"

Library Of Congress Prints and Photos

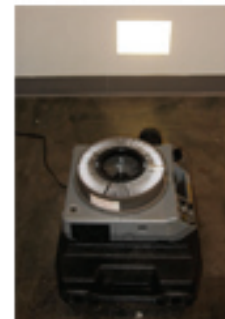
A punchline works only in the three-section joke. First the situation is set. Next Person A does something, Person B does something similar, and Person C does something totally different and surprising. This of course relies on timing.

In his essay on humor, the late French philosopher Henri Bergson states that all humor relies on the mechanical encrusting the living. Limits being placed on life (I.E. dark humor). He goes on to elude in his seminal work *Creative Evolution* that poetry is an impulse of the living ordered and contingent (mechanical).

Peter told me one day that if he ever, and he isn't saying he will, but if he ever were to get a tattoo he would get a Mondrian Painting on his arm, or his calf.



Peter Baldes can poetically highlight a pun. For this exhibition his Mondrian Midwestern diorama uneconomically draws power, his blank slides with superglued hairs vibrate like archaic animated gifs. An idealized beam of light finds perfect level only to be tainted by mediation. These materials are codes to Peter, full of faults and glitches. He is intentionally making awkward moments. Yet at the same time he is making drawings, delicate active lines that require a power supply. They are giddy celebrations of the imperfect world.



TO EXTRACT THROUGH TIME: The tea drew.



Photo: Newsboys outside a theatre

Library Of Congress Prints and Photos

In the 1890's the Lumieres brothers took their father's latest invention outside to capture office workers at the photographic film plant leaving work for the day. A few years later they premiered "Arrivee d'un train a la Ciotat" or literally "Arrival of a Train" to a shocked, screaming, and fearful audience. One account mentions fainting.

According to a theatre history professor, theatre is about who was traveled and saw a great play, went home and made it their own. Art and Vacation go hand in hand throughout history. Images of far distant places brought into the home, escape into fantasy, all of these are connected both literally and figuratively.

There is a purposeful honesty about **Sayaka Suzuki**. She makes giant bold objects about big unwieldy subject matter. Crude and Gutteral, they are heavy residues of histories most want to forget. She works in leisure, walking, curshing pennies, and meditating on places. Her objects are shadows of these experiences, big enourmous shadows made of the very medium that covers her inspiration.

