



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Please post through February 25, 2011

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Artistic Mediums II
January 24 – February 25, 2011

Opening Reception: Friday, January 28, 6 – 8 pm
Gallery Talk with the Curators and Artists: Saturday, February 19, 2pm

The **New Art Center in Newton** announces the opening of its Winter exhibition, ***Artistic Mediums II***. Nominally an "art and technology" show, it is a group exhibition that features the work of fourteen artists from New England and beyond. It is co-curated by Andrew Sempere (Boston, MA) and Mary Lucking (Phoenix, AZ). Sempere, an artist and Design Researcher who holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and a Master of Science from the MIT Media Lab, and Lucking, a public artist who holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Wellesley College in Architecture and a Master of Fine Arts from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in Art and Technology, are also known as the curatorial collective Push Buttons First (www.pushbuttonfirst.com). Artists in the show include Sarah Attwood (San Diego, CA), Ranjit Bhatnagar (Brooklyn, NY), Paul Catanese (Chicago, IL), Ben Chang (Troy, NY), Kim Collmer (Cologne, Germany), Chris Harrison (Pittsburgh, PA), Kelly Kirshner (Milwaukee, WI), Jesse Kriss (Cambridge, MA), Peggy Nelson (Holden, MA), David Parker (Chicago, IL), Silvia Ruzanka (Troy, NY), Andrew Sempere, Leslie Sharpe (Bloomington, IN) and Dima Strakovsky (Lexington, KY). **The Opening Reception will take place on Friday, January 28th from 6 to 8 pm. There will be a Gallery Talk with the curators on Saturday, February 19th at 2 pm.**

The artworks in ***Artistic Mediums II*** explore the idea of artist as *medium*— one who channels ideas and expresses them through the manipulation of not only the visible but of the invisible, of electricity, ideas, even ghosts. Inspired by and in collaboration with technology, the artworks offer multi-sensorial experiences and the viewer becomes an active participant in the work. Although not all the artwork in ***Artistic Mediums II*** actually involve electricity, sound, sensors, computers or visible technology—some are photographs and some are sculptural— they are conceptually connected to technology and its channeling of the invisible. ***Artistic Mediums II*** is the second iteration of the show. The first iteration, ***Artistic Mediums***, was also co-curated by Sempere and Lucking and was hosted by the Museum of New Art in Pontiac, Michigan from April 5-16th, 2008.

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"Our works, individual and unique, record for posterity the experience of living in a time marked by an uncertainty of our own making" (Sempere and Lucking). Working with technology, sometimes at the intersection of old and new technologies, the artists in **Artistic Mediums II** serve special roles as contemporary mediums. Many of the works demand audience participation, enabling artists to literally function as mediums for the invisible. **Sarah Attwood's** *Fragment Reader* is, Attwood writes, "a collection of abandoned answering machine tapes found in thrift stores. The tapes have been uncoiled and stretched onto a mahogany frame, with their last, old messages still intact. Participants touch a custom-built audio-pen to the tapes and run it forwards and backwards to hear snippets of voices scheduling, gossiping and joking from the void of the forgotten past." Commissioned by Rhizome.org, **Paul Catanese** describes *Misplaced Reliquary* as: "a handheld curiosity cabinet containing the holy relics collected by an eccentric curator. The relics are contained within a virtual repository taking the form of a gameboy advance ROM that can be "played" online and/or downloaded to any gameboy advance.... In addition to the online aspects of this work, a physical installation also exists consisting of a GBA with the reliquary preloaded onto it as well as a leather-bound book containing the field notes of the curator."

"We explore, take note and occasionally guide, pushing the limits of our world and repurposing the tools of objective inquiry in the hopes of finding more subjective truths" (Sempere and Lucking). Artworks more figuratively connected to the idea of artist as medium for the invisible use the historically documentary, and objective, media of photography, film and video to produce visually mesmerizing and physically decentering works. **Kim Collmer's** *Berlin Skin* is a video animation with sound. Collmer writes that *Berlin Skin* "creates the aura of a city through textures and motion and is meant to create a physical connection between the viewer and Berlin." **David Parker's** *Time Switch Series No. 6: Derby Road*, an archival inkjet print, also investigates place through the lens of time. **Leslie Sharpe's** inkjet prints, *Ghosts for Cellphones: 10 Capture,s* record traces of the invisible that highlight the mystery in the everyday. Sharpe writes, "*I am haunted*. Haunted by tales of electronically-charged change." For all the artists in the show, **"We've met the ghost in the machine, and found it's us"** (Sempere and Lucking).

Artistic Mediums II is one of three selected proposals submitted to the New Art Center as part of the Curatorial Opportunity Program (COP) for the 2010-2011 exhibition cycle. The COP enables first-time or established curators to explore experimental approaches in the presentation of contemporary art. In addition to gallery space, curators receive a stipend, administrative support, insurance, promotion, and assistance in exhibition design and installation. Each year, the Center issues a public call for group show proposals and selects exhibitions through a juried process. Since its inception in 1991, the COP has shown the work of over 1200 artists and 75 curators. More information on the COP, including proposal guidelines, is available at www.newartcenter.org. The next deadline for receipt of proposals is April 11, 2011.

Featured in the smaller Holzwasser Gallery during the same dates: **Language is the Word. Works by Amy DiPlacido.**

The New Art Center in Newton

Gallery Hours: Mon – Fri, 9am – 5pm; Sat 1 – 5pm. Closed February 21. The Main Gallery is wheelchair accessible.

Address: 61 Washington Park, Newtonville, Massachusetts

Transportation: The nearest T stop to the New Art Center is Newton Highlands on the Green Line (D/Riverside), then take the #59 North bus on Walnut Street, exit at CVS. Call the MBTA at (617) 722-3200 for schedules + fare information. The NAC is also accessible from the Mass. Pike, Route 128, or the Newtonville stop on the commuter rail (Framingham line).

Information: Contact: Kathleen Smith at (617) 964-3424 or Kathleen@newartcenter.org or visit www.newartcenter.org

The New Art Center in Newton is a non-profit art organization established in 1977 and has been dedicated to artistic creation and education through classes, exhibitions and public programs for children and adults for thirty-two years.

The New Art Center is funded in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

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