



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** - Please post through October 14, 2011

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**We Still See The Black**  
**September 12 – October 14**

**Opening Reception and Gallery Talk with Curators and Artists:**  
Thursday, September 15, 4:30 – 8pm

The **New Art Center in Newton** announces the opening of ***We Still See The Black***, the first of its two fall exhibitions, which features the work of mostly Boston and New York-based artists who draw inspiration and imagery from Heavy Metal album covers, song lyrics and sounds. Curated by **Owen Rundquist** (MFA, MassArt; Brooklyn, NY) and **Alexander DeMaria** (MFA, MassArt; Boston, MA/ Brooklyn, NY), ***We Still See The Black*** features the work of **Vincent Como** (Brooklyn, NY), **Matthew Hickey** (Boston, MA), **Karlynn Holland** (Brooklyn, NY), **Seldon Hunt** (Brooklyn, NY/ Melbourne, Australia), **Nader Sadek** (New York, NY/ Cairo, Egypt), **Joe Wardwell** (Boston, MA), **Jack Wesley Schneider** (Boston, MA), **Todd White** (Santa Fe, NM), and artist collaborations **Deep Slumber Lake** (Santa Fe, NM/ Brooklyn, NY) and **Under the Same Shadow** (Boston, MA/ Brooklyn, NY). The Opening Reception will take place on Thursday, September 15th from 6 to 8 pm and the Gallery Talk with a curator and artists will take place from 4:30 to 6pm, before the Opening Reception. A Heavy Metal Concert is scheduled for Sunday night, October 9 beginning at 7:30 featuring DeMaria and Wardwell's band **TAJ**. On Monday, October 10 (Columbus Day), the exhibition is open and there will be an Album Art Drawing Workshop from 1 to 3pm with the curator/ artist DeMaria. ***All events are free and open to the public.***

Taking its title from "I Still See the Black" by Heavy Metal band Candlemass, each artist in ***We Still See the Black*** "not only makes reference to heavy metal culture in his or her work, but also collapses that culture, manipulating its aesthetic and historic aspects into a personal language or style" (Rundquist and DeMaria). While all the artists in ***We Still See The Black*** unify around Heavy Metal, they range in their backgrounds and experiences. **Joe Wardwell** is currently an Assistant Professor of Painting and Drawing at Brandeis University in Waltham, MA. **Jack Wesley Schneider** is part of the Boston artists collective and gallery Lufthansa Studios and just had a solo show at Anthony Greaney in Boston. Rundquist and DeMaria's collaborative **Under the Same Shadow** has recently exhibited in Finland and at the Wassaic Project in Wassaic, NY. **Rundquist** has shown in Boston, at LaMontagne Gallery, 808 Gallery and at Lufthansa Studios, as well as nationally. **Vincent Como** was selected as one of the artists

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to represent the United States at the Vienna Biennale in 2008. **Deep Slumber Lake** is a collaborative whose artwork has been used by the Heavy Metal inspired clothing company Husk Industries.

Although heavily informed by Heavy Metal, this exhibition is also keenly aware of how it relates to its site, the New Art Center in Newton. Showing in the main gallery of the New Art Center, in a repurposed nave of a former Unitarian Church, **We Still See the Black** will use some of the architectural elements of the church still present, or recreate elements, to draw connections between artists and works that would not be apparent in a conventional gallery setting. Additionally, the Album Art Drawing Workshop offered by **DeMaria** –not only an artist and curator but also an educator and a Visiting Faculty member at MassArt and the School of the Museum of Fine Arts— directly engages with the New Art Center’s arts education mission and its youth audience, as well as Greater Boston’s youth audience (although the workshop is open to all ages). “While all of the artists selected are serious and sophisticated, much of the work is also fun, and sometimes funny. Heavy Metal is, at heart, a youth culture and we hope that **We Still See the Black** will be relatable and exciting for the young people in the community.” (Rundquist and DeMaria).

In addition to drawing inspiration from the music and imagery of Heavy Metal, **Karlynn Holland, Seldon Hunt, Todd White** and **Nader Sadek’s** work has actually appeared as posters and album covers for numerous bands and venues. **Holland** has designed the logo and album art for Krallice, a band highly promoted by the influential artist Matthew Barney. **Sadek** has also made costumes and stage props for a variety of Heavy Metal performances both nationally and internationally, like the masks he created for the Hungarian singer of both Mayhem and Sunn O))), Attila Csihar. His work for **We Still See The Black** is a large petroleum, resin, acrylic and rubber installation titled *Exhume to Consume*, inspired by a Heavy Metal song by the band Carcass. **White** designed a poster for Heavy Metal’s New Ancestor Tour and one work in this exhibition is his cover for The Fucking Wrath’s new album *Valley of the Serpent’s Soul* (2011). **Hunt** has designed numerous Metal Band tour posters and cover art for bands like Isis and Pelican.

All these artists, for Rundquist and DeMaria, “create contemporary folklore, myth, and tragic comedy from their own lives as well as their shared (sub)cultural experience.” **We Still See The Black** works to draw a general audience in to this often insular community, as much as it works to allow the artists and their subculture a way to openly express themselves to such an audience. “**We Still See the Black** hopes to illuminate the chasm, the vortex, the void – so some may climb out and others may step in.”

**We Still See The Black** is one of three selected proposals submitted through an open call to the New Art Center as part of the Curatorial Opportunity Program (COP) for the 2011-2012 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 and administrative, promotional and technical support. Since its inception in 1991, exhibitions are selected each year through a juried process. More information on the COP, including proposal guidelines, is available at [www.newartcenter.org](http://www.newartcenter.org). The next deadline for receipt of proposals is April 9, 2012.

Featured in the Holzwasser Gallery during the same dates: **Rachel Hunt Durocher: Common Thread.**

## The New Art Center in Newton

- Gallery Hours:** Mon – Fri, 9am – 5pm; Sat 1 – 5pm. 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](http://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.  
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