

WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE FINE ARTS GALLERY

ACADEMIC ARTS BUILDING 3RD FLOOR
75 GRASSLANDS ROAD VALHALLA NEW YORK 10595
MON-SAT 10am-3pm + THUR 4-6pm
914.606.6621
www.sunywcc.edu/gallery

*Exhibition images are available upon request

TRAGIC SENSE OF LIFE

MEGAN CUMP
THOMAS DOYLE
KATE GILMORE
NICK LENKER
KYMIA NAWABI
BRIE RUAIS
SUZANNE SATTTLER
JENNIFER SULLIVAN
BRYAN ZANISNIK
CURATED BY JOHN EVERETT DAQUINO

FEBRUARY 1 - APRIL 16, 2010

The Westchester Community College Fine Arts Gallery in Valhalla, New York is pleased to announce *Tragic Sense of Life*. The exhibition includes works by nine contemporary artists from New York City and Philadelphia, curated by John Everett Daquino. The exhibit will run from February 1 - April 16, 2010.

The curator, John Everett Daquino, has curated exhibitions at non-profit and university art galleries in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. Daquino currently lives in New Jersey and holds a Master's degree in Modern and Contemporary Art History, Criticism, and Theory from Purchase College as well as a Bachelor's degree in Photography and Related Media from the School of Visual Arts.

Tragic Sense of Life features nine contemporary artists that offer glimpses into what Daquino calls "enigmatic worlds depicting fundamentally tragic sensibilities. Though the artwork is mostly fantastical, and at times personal, one can often relate to the inner struggles portrayed in its respective predicaments." The title of the exhibition derives from a book written by the late nineteenth/early twentieth century Spanish philosopher, Miguel de Unamuno. In his book *Tragic Sense of Life* (1912), de Unamuno frames the mind's intrinsic struggle for rationality in the face of the irrational reality of human existence as that what forms a tragic sense of life within one's self. All of the artists in the exhibition portray a tragic sense of life that, though branching off from what de Unamuno outlines in his book, often deals with comparable torments. Yet humor can be found throughout the exhibition. As Daquino notes there remains an element of humor that at times turns a tragic sense of life into one that is tragicomic.

Megan Cump's photographs fuse a Gothic sensibility and performative elements with traditional landscape imagery, in order to explore the metaphoric potential of the environment. These explorations of the unknown landscape suggest a parallel internal journey, a voyage into the unconscious. Cump holds a Bachelor's degree from Macalester College and a MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She currently resides in Brooklyn, New York.

Thomas Doyle's work mines the debris of memory through the creation of intricate worlds sculpted in 1:43 scale and smaller. Often sealed under glass, the works depict the remnants of things past—whether major, transformational experiences, or the quieter moments that resonate loudly throughout a life. Doyle was born in Grand Haven, Michigan and received a Bachelor's degree from Humboldt State University in Arcata, California. He currently resides in Brooklyn.

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Kate Gilmore earned a Bachelor's degree from Bates College in Lewiston, Maine, and went on to earn a Master's in Fine Art from the School of Visual Arts in New York City, where she currently resides. Her videos often document enduring performances that touch upon issues of femininity.

Nick Lenker, a resident of Philadelphia, holds a BFA in ceramics and sculpture from the University of the Arts. He has had solo shows in both Philadelphia and New York, and has been included in numerous group shows in Syracuse, Washington D.C., Quebec, New York, and Philadelphia. His work in 2D and 3D media depict fundamentally tragic scenarios in a myriad of ways where imaginary creatures do battle against each other.

Kymia Nawabi holds a Bachelor's degree from East Carolina University, College of Fine Arts, in Greenville, NC, and a Master's of Fine Arts from the University of Florida. She currently resides in Brooklyn, New York. Her fantastical work in 2D and 3D are filled with a cast of psychic doppelgangers scabbed together from a curious stock of psychoanalytic readings, childhood humiliations, and self-deprecating humor.

Brie Ruais is currently enrolled in the Masters of Fine Art program at Columbia University, located in New York City, where she also resides. She holds a BFA from New York University. Working with embroidery, drawing, sculpture, and found objects, she composes both floor and wall based installations that evoke environments and shrines.

Suzanne Sattler was born in White Plains, NY, and earned a BFA from the University of Hartford, Connecticut. Her drawings focus on successful and failed relationships, where comparisons are made between specific relationships found in nature and those found in our daily lives. She currently lives in Brooklyn.

Jennifer Sullivan is an interdisciplinary artist who works across a variety of disciplines including video, performance, installation, and painting. She has exhibited and performed widely, at venues such as The Kitchen, PS1 Contemporary Art Center, Klaus von Nichtsaggend Gallery, the New Museum, Raid Projects, Telic Arts Exchange, and Okay Mountain. She lives and works in Brooklyn, NY, and has earned a BFA from Pratt University and an MFA from Parsons School of Design.

Bryan Zanisnik was born and raised in New Jersey, where he earned a Bachelor's degree from Drew University. He went on to earn a Master's of Fine Art from Hunter College, and he currently resides in Brooklyn. His work in video, photography, and performance typically examine family relations.

Westchester Community College Fine Arts Gallery supports the teaching functions of the college with a diverse range of exhibitions, lectures, and colloquia. Exhibitions feature work by contemporary artists of regional, national, and international reputation who reflect the diversity of the college's student body. The gallery also features exhibits of student and faculty work. This exhibition program is supplemented with periodic gallery talks by visiting artists and scholars. Gallery exhibitions and events are free and open to the public. By providing a space in which individuals from both within and without of the college community can gather for stimulation, reflection, and exchange, the Fine Arts Gallery strives to enhance Westchester Community College's commitment to lifelong learning and community service.