

HOME AGAIN

JONATHAN EAVES
JOELLE JENSEN
MOLLY STEVENS
JONATHAN SCHIPPER

CURATED BY
JAMES LEONARD

MARCH 16–APRIL 18 2009

The Westchester Community College Fine Arts Gallery in Valhalla, NY is pleased to announce *Home Again*, featuring sculpture by Jonathan Eaves and Jonathan Schipper, photographs by Joelle Jensen, and video by Molly Stevens. The exhibition is curated by Brooklyn-based artist and curator James Leonard; it will run from Monday, March 16 through Saturday, April 18, 2009.

In *Home Again*, Leonard has selected four artists whose exploration of family origins and half-remembered domestic spaces serve as central sources of inspiration. In a society as nomadic and atomized as ours, homecomings have become fairly universal experiences.

The commonality of these private experiences provides a foundation for deeper explorations into the psychological nuances that define home, family, class, gender, memory and time. We hope that *Home Again* sparks interest and dialogue around these themes and their roles in the generation of resonant artworks.

Jonathan Eaves reconstructs architectural spaces from his youth, abstracted and distorted by the lenses of time, memory and imagination. From his earlier site specific outdoor works, such as *Sanctuary* and *Tower*, to his more recent large scale nautilus-like installation *The Closet Over The Stairs*, Eaves spins hard building materials into the wispy strands of memory and imagination. Eaves says of his own work, “Recreating tangible elements of scenes or partial environments from memories of early childhood experiences has a mentally restorative effect for me which is similar to maintaining a dream journal.”

Joelle Jensen photographs her relatives’ homes for her latest series, *Interiors*. The pristine rooms could easily serve as a model for a real estate agent: generic, sterile and picturesque. The various homes begin to blur together as one imagined architecture. Despite this unlive-in air, family photographs hide within each image, often in plain sight. Jensen acknowledges this strange dynamic, “I take an analytical stance to examine spaces filled with emotion, distance, grief and love. The simple geometry of the compositions provides a counterweight to the melancholia.”

In her videos, **Molly Stevens** investigates with clarity the privilege of her youth among nannies and maids. In *Stepping Up*, she presents the tensions of class as an absurd and cruel cycle. *Race* is also endless and explores the dynamics of surrogate motherhood from both sides. Stevens finds both conflict and contradiction inherent in these relationships. “My projects simultaneously look at separation and intimacy, estrangement and closeness, loss and renewal.

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
914.606.7867 | 914.606.6621
www.sunywcc.edu/gallery

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They hover in the in-between, in the neither/nor, in the tension of coexisting opposites.” In her drawings, which take her away from the childhood home but remain psychological, tension emerges from the text and subtext

Jonathan Schipper represents a homecoming to our most primal fears and concerns as a contemporary American male. He wields all the stereotypical masculine materials of polished steel, motors, computers and heavy metal music and bends them to investigate his own cultural grounding in Western metaphysics, focusing on the transitory nature of corporality and the inevitability of time. In *Raining Blood*, a classical Greek catharsis is reworked as a giant action figure convulses via a series of hydraulics. These hydraulics are driven by a player piano roll of Slayer’s heavy metal song *Raining Blood*. In his monumental work *The Slow Inevitable Death of American Muscle*, Schipper uses a giant vise-like rigging to slowly compress two muscle cars in a head-on collision over the course of six days.

The Westchester Community College Fine Arts Gallery serves primarily as an exhibition space for the visual arts. The mission of the gallery is to support the teaching functions of the college with a diverse range of scholarly exhibitions, lectures, and colloquia. Exhibitions feature work by students, visual arts faculty, and emerging regional artists as well as by contemporary artists of national and international reputation who reflect the diversity of the college’s student body. This exhibition program of artists 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.

For additional information and gallery events, contact Matt Ferranto at matt.ferranto@sunywcc.edu or 914-606-6621.

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