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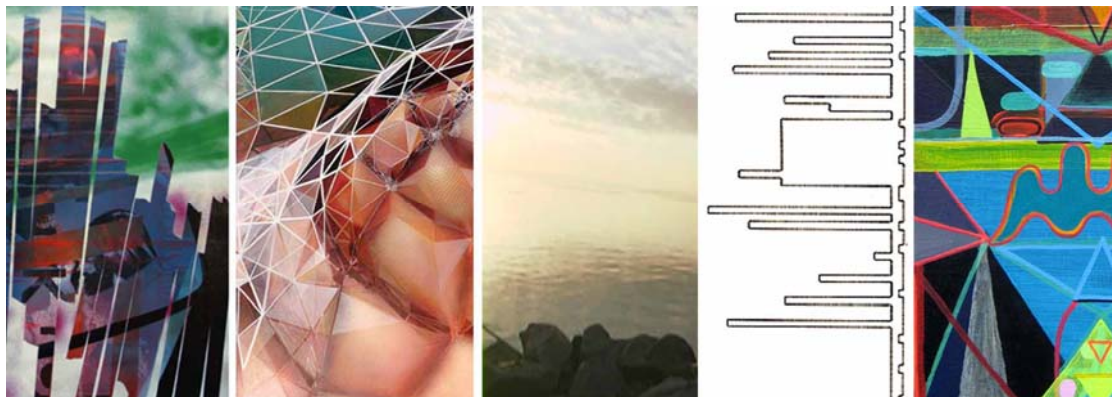
ART PROJECTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Spaces Between Spaces featuring Seth Adelsberger, Martin Brief, Jeff Gibson and Michelle Hinebrook

Project Space: Luke Wyatt – ***Weenus***, a new site-specific installation

OPENING RECEPTION:

Friday, January 11, 2008, 7-9pm

SHOW RUNS:

January 11 – February 9, 2008

EXHIBITION HOURS:

Wednesday - Saturday, 2 to 6pm and by appointment

Civilian is thrilled to present its first two exhibitions of the new year: *Spaces Between Spaces* featuring Seth Adelsberger (MD), Martin Brief (ME), Jeff Gibson (NY) and Michelle Hinebrook (NY); and *Weenus*, a site-specific installation by DC based artist and musician Luke Wyatt. Looking at the world we inhabit through the spaces in between, the artists in the exhibition articulate through painting and drawing the shapes and forms that go unnoticed such as the negative space around words in a dictionary, empty space between plastic nettings, the barrage of celebrity faces and slogans in print media, or the imagined mystical forms of native communications.

SETH ADELSBERGER unveils paintings and works on paper from his *Vision Quest Series*. In these colorful and intricate pieces, the artist aims to interpret the ancient spiritual journeys practiced among Native American tribes as a rite of passage. Architectural platforms merge and disintegrate amidst a landscape of blips and bubbles, wherein mask-like configurations emerge like a dream. In the artist's words, "they begin as a stream of consciousness outpouring of forms. Basic shapes interact and direct each other to form larger and more complex systems of geometric scaffoldings... where mask-like facial configurations emerge." A graduate of Towson University, Adelsberger has shown work at Baltimore's CURRENT Gallery and a solo exhibit at DC's Flashpoint. His work has been featured in *New American Paintings* #45, #57 and in their most recent issue.

MARTIN BRIEF explores the shape of language in his *Dictionary Series* and *Newspaper Series* and gives new meaning to the design term 'information graphics'. Using ink and vellum to trace blocks of text on pages from the dictionary, Brief awakens a quiet energy within the columns of a familiar structure. Soft and understated, like the thin, translucent papers he uses, the negative space once surrounding the text transforms into a physical form. In *The Newspaper Series* Brief uses front pages from *The New York Times* dating back to 1966 for his tracing templates. Here, ink and vellum softly collaborate again, this time only marking the filling of where the letter 'o' appears. A kind of mapping emerges from these works, the eye wanting to create an image from all the randomness. Brief has a BFA from Northern Illinois University, and an MFA from Southern Illinois

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University. Most recently, Brief is an Assistant Professor at Longwood University in Virginia. He is now concentrating on artmaking in Ellsworth, Maine. Recent exhibitions include a two-person show *The Western Oregon University Invitational* and *Martin Brief and Anna Cox: New Work* at Flat File Galleries in Chicago in November 2007.

JEFF GIBSON combines airbrush, silkscreen-printing, oil, acrylic and spray enamel in his most recent works. He applies all said elements on images from the media to disarm and redefine them in his own terms. Gibson explains, "This series began as a way to better understand the immediacy of images drawn from popular media. By incorporating these images into a slower painting process I am forced to engage with these images again and again. The paintings go through many layers and change radically throughout the entire process. Each finished painting results from a cumulative thought process expressed through images, marks, words, and painted gestures." His paintings, rich with layers of overlaying color and shapes create a vibrant patchwork of graffiti art. Gibson lends texture and a haphazard rawness to his collages that give each piece emotional volume. Gibson holds an MFA from the Royal College of Art in London, UK and graduated from the Chicago Institute of Fine Arts with a Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts. Gibson currently lives in Brooklyn, NY and works as an arts educator. Jeffrey has exhibited with the Bronx Museum of the Arts (NY), The Morris Museum (NJ), Samson Projects (MA), and was selected as the Alternate Fellow for the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian. His work has also been published in various books and magazines in England, Norway, and Spain.

MICHELLE HINEBROOK uses both digital processes and traditional painting tools to create her large abstract paintings. With the aid of imaging and scanning technologies Hinebrook maps the invisible interiors of the human body and contrasts them with polyhedral geometric shapes to create intricate and intersecting patterns. And while various technologies are employed by the artist to capture nature's inherent and mathematical precisions, it is in Hinebrook's hand-painting that she evokes the organic beauty of each piece—the works seem to breathe! In the artist's words, "I use these systems to envision interior and exterior structures of the body, the curves and the contours, and to reveal patterns. These pattern networks are used to represent social relationships, map surfaces, visualize information, and define layers of space." Hinebrook, received her MFA in Painting from Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, MI in 2005 and her BFA from the College for Creative Studies, Detroit, MI in 2000. Hinebrook's paintings have been featured in over 30 group exhibitions, and several solo exhibitions including the David Klein Gallery, MI in 2008, Foley Gallery, NY in 2007, and the Pratt Manhattan Gallery, NY 2007.

PROJECT SPACE EXHIBITION:

LUKE WYATT

Weenus

In his first exhibition, musician and videographer Luke Wyatt brings a bold site-specific installation to Civilian's project space. Through an intensely creative and theoretical system, Luke Wyatt articulates a possible source of balance in a complex world. Luke has been honing the Weenus system, a four-part taxonomy for ordering everything, depicted as a circle with four quadrants akin to the old system of humors, each quadrant has exclusive qualities that will be revealed. Weenus, translated in the space through a painting and an encased monitor acts as a barometric gauge to the user's internal imbalances afflicted by the ever-inundating world.

In his own words, Wyatt frames "light and noise and directs performance therapy as a member of TeamFILO [www.teamfilo.org], the Friendly Intervention Liberation Organization, with positive disruptions dating back to 1997. TeamFILO originated in the theater of the street, amidst a vicious political economy promising dividends in ecological catastrophe. FILO's innovation was to combat this, not in a self-righteous way, but by returning targets to 6th grade sleepover head, with all the cozy junk food imagination orgies that suggests. Recharged pre-adolescent prank momentum was shown to weaken chemical dependence and box-job induced malaise."

More information on the artists and jpeg images are available through the gallery.

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