

San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art
News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LIFT OFF AND LET DOWN

San Jose ICA Exhibitions Pair Hope and Despair

February 24, 2009, SAN JOSE, CA – Opening in April 2009 at the San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art

WE WON'T BE IN TOUCH. WE AREN'T GOING TO HANG ONTO YOUR RESUME. WE DON'T WANT TO STAY FRIENDS. WE'RE NOT PLANNING TO ADD YOU TO OUR DATABASE. YOU WEREN'T ONE OF OUR FINAL CANDIDATES. WE DON'T HONESTLY BELIEVE THIS WILL BE THE BEST THING FOR THE BOTH OF US. THERE ISN'T GOING TO BE ANY NEXT TIME. WE AREN'T GOING TO FOLLOW UP WITH YOU IN SIX MONTHS. APPLYING AGAIN NEXT YEAR IS JUST A WASTE OF YOUR TIME AND OURS. WE MADE ALL OUR FINAL DECISIONS WEEKS AGO. OUR STRATEGY DIDN'T EVOLVE IN A DIFFERENT DIRECTION. WE REALLY DIDN'T HAVE A HARD TIME MAKING THIS DECISION. YES, THERE IS SOMEONE ELSE. IT'S NOT US, IT'S YOU.

(ICA) are two juxtaposing exhibitions featuring the freshest artwork to emerge from the local art scene and artwork created by working artists responding to rejection and loss.

It's Not Us, It's You is an exhibition that explores the inevitability of rejection in our lives – a timely topic in today's woeful economic climate. Through a tragic and sometimes heartbreaking lens, the artists in this exhibition respond to the reality of rejection with subversion, self-reflection, humor and brutal honesty. The show is guest curated by artist Ray Beldner and includes paintings, sculpture, video, and multi-media work from artists Anthony Discenza, Stephanie Syjuco, Michael Arcega, Kara Maria, Steve

Lambert, Jonn Herschend, Dee Hibbert-Jones, Nomi Talisman, Desiree Holman, Orly Cogan, Kate Gilmore, Robert Eads and Arthur Gonzalez.

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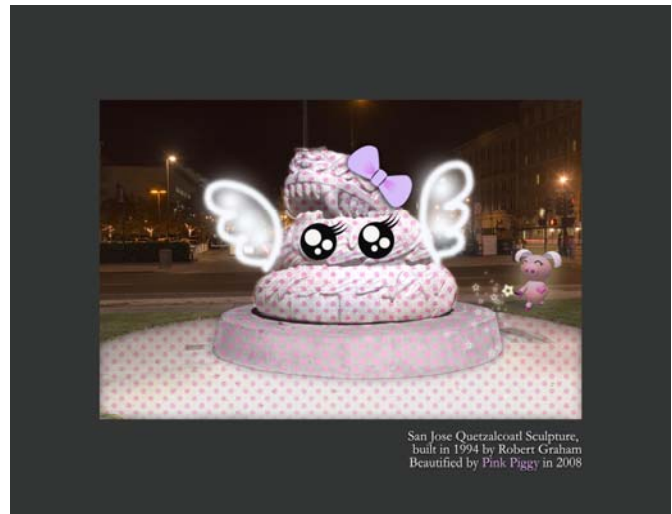
As part of *It's Not Us, It's You*, Beldner is compiling a book of artist rejection letters. Artists are invited to send their rejection letters via email to info@sjica.org with "FOR REJECTION SHOW" in the subject by March 28. The ICA promises that no entries will be rejected for this project.

It's Not Us, It's You is presented in the ICA's Focus Gallery, Cardinale Project Room and Night Moves windows (after-dark programming in the ICA's front windows) from April 4 through June 20. An opening reception on Friday, April 3 from 6-8pm will feature an open-mic session for rejection confessions.

Lift Off, which runs from April 10 through June 13 in the ICA's Main Gallery is the fifth annual exhibition featuring the collective work of San Jose State University's (SJSU) Master of Fine Art (MFA) 2009 graduates.

Lift Off is an extension of the ICA's commitment to provide meaningful opportunities for emerging artists to present their work to the public. The exhibition marks the culmination of two to three years of intensive investigation by students in the Fine Arts program at SJSU and launches the graduates into the next chapter of their artistic pursuits. Featuring sculpture, photography, painting, and new media, this diverse group of art makers and thinkers reflect the cultural vibrancy of our community.

This year's graduates include: Thomas Asmuth, Randy Bricco, Andrew Hedges, Kathryn Hetzner, Xiaoqing Jing, Margo Jones, Pantea Karimi, Wayne Madsen, Victor Malagon, Greg Mettler, Donna Pettit, Michael Risch, Dina Ropele, Virginia Westphal Uhl, and Jonathan Yao. In conjunction with the exhibition, the MFA graduates will publish a catalogue of their work with essays by Art History Master Degree candidates Sally Sumida, Celeyce Matthews and Jennifer De La Cruz.



An opening reception will be held on Friday, May 22 from 6-8pm during the weekend of SJSU's commencement ceremonies.

“Introducing and exploring ideas and points-of-view; challenging and debating existing notions and beliefs; presenting unflinching, poignant, and humorous views of our individual and collective lives and times – these are the shared objectives of these two shows,” explains ICA Assistant Curator Susan O’Malley. “The work is so fresh and raw. You want to point and stare and look away, at the same time.”

Image captions:

Anthony Discenza, *The Way it Is*, Digital print, Courtesy of the Artist and Catharine Clark Gallery
Xiaoqing Jing, from *Kawaii Land Project*, Digital print, Courtesy of the Artist

The San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) is an energetic art space located in downtown San Jose dedicated to making contemporary art accessible and exciting to audiences of all ages and backgrounds. Exhibitions are presented in three galleries that display the most current, relevant and often challenging art from the region, the nation and the world. The ICA is activated by opening receptions, South First Friday gallery walks, after-dark programming in the front windows, panel discussions, printmaking workshops, brown bag lunches and impromptu conversations in the galleries. Admission is always free.

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