

FACTS, FANTASIES AND FICTIONS:

CHRISTIAN CURIEL SARAH McENEANEY MATTHEW SUIB

October 26 – December 9, 2007

Facts, Fantasies and Fictions features multiples works by three artists who engage in diverse approaches to the narrative tradition in contemporary art. Presenting real, constructed and imagined narratives, each of the scenes depicted hover between the boundaries of the recognizable and everyday to those found only in movies or in dreams.

Included in the exhibition are New York-based artist Christian Curiel and Philadelphia-based artists Sarah McEneaney and Matthew Suib. Each artist approaches narrative through very different portals: Sarah McEneaney paints images from her daily life while Christian Curiel's paintings are drawn from memory and imagination. Matthew Suib appropriates imagery from Hollywood movies and other films. What unites the works is how each of the paintings and videos on view straddles the lines between depicting fact, fantasy and/or fiction.

Sarah McEneaney paints autobiographical narratives based on her everyday life and immediate surroundings: herself, her home, studio, and her Philadelphia neighborhood. Her works are influenced by narrative paintings from India and Early Renaissance art, and, despite the off-kilter perspective and bright-hued palette, they poignantly capture the emotional and physical character of a particular situation or event, whether mundane or dramatic. Like most autobiographies or self-portraits, only the artist knows which parts of these diaristic accounts are actual lived experience, observation, and memory and which parts are imagination and embellishment.

Christian Curiel's large-scale paintings of figures involved in seemingly random acts invite viewers to access, imagine and re-live their childhood. At first glance, the activities and scenes in the paintings appear mundane, yet closer inspection reveals bizarre and mysterious acts being performed. Presented in isolation and non-sequentially, each captured moment provokes the viewer to unconsciously develop a narrative associated with the scene, imagining what came before and what happens next. These scenes, with their surreal imagery, evoke personal

experiences, memories and acts of curiosity from childhood. Engaging with our psyche they trigger our individual inclinations towards interpretations of innocence versus malevolence.

Matthew Suib's videos focus our attention on the relationship between cinema and history. Traditionally a media for telling stories and creating mythologies, cinema is also a media that informs (or misinforms) our understanding of history and unknowingly shapes our perceptions of moving images put before us. Drawing from such sources as spaghetti westerns, Cecile B. Demille's *Ten Commandments* and outtakes from *Lawrence of Arabia*, the artist presents us with works that are isolated, edited and re-contextualized to serve as provocative meditations on current events and anti-war sentiments.

Interested in the ways in which images in the media infiltrate our subconscious altering our perceptions of reality, Suib created a new work on the occasion of the exhibition commissioned by The Galleries at Moore. Engaging the gallery architecture, Suib's new video is projected from within the gallery onto the exterior doors. To passers by on the street it appears that the office is filled with water. Papers float by a desk and the lights flicker eerily overhead. The initial illusion gives way to rationalizing its artifice yet subconsciously it triggers the haunting images of water-filled interior spaces that flooded the media in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Untitled (Flooded Room) 2007 can be seen from 7pm to 7am from 20th Street on the east side glass doors of the gallery before Race Street.

Lorie Mertes

Rochelle F. Levy Director and Chief Curator



Christian Curiel, *No Hay Olvido (There Is No Forgetting)* 2006

CHRISTIAN CURIEL

New York-based artist Christian Curiel was born in Ponce, Puerto Rico to Cuban parents in 1977. He holds a BFA in painting from the International Fine Arts College in Miami and an MFA in painting from the Yale School of Art in New Haven, Connecticut. Curiel's works have been exhibited extensively in galleries and museums in the United States and abroad. Recent solo exhibitions include: David Castillo Gallery, Miami (2007) and Real Art Ways Center for Contemporary Culture, Hartford (2004). Group exhibitions include: Lehman Maupin Gallery, New York (2006); La Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris (2005); The Americas Society, New York (2005); and Massimo Audiello Gallery, New York (2005). Curiel is also a member of FeCuOp, a collaborative group based in Miami that experiments with social interactions and art.

MATTHEW SUIB

Philadelphia-based artist Matthew Suib has exhibited installations, video and audio works and photographs nationally and internationally at venues including the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia; Kunstwerke, Berlin; Mercer Union, Toronto; The Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC; and PS1 Contemporary Art Center, New York. Recent exhibitions include: Locally Localized Gravity and the Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia (2007) and the 2007 Moscow Biennale. Also in 2007, Suib co-founded Screening, Philadelphia's first gallery dedicated to the presentation of innovative and challenging works on video and film, with artist Nadia Hironaka. Suib is a Pennsylvania Council on the Arts fellow, and a member of the Philadelphia artist collective Vox Populi. Suib holds a BFA with honors in photography from the University of the Arts, Philadelphia.



Matthew Suib, *COCKED* 2003 (video stills)



Sarah McEneaney, *Acupuncture* 2006

SARAH McENEANEY

Sarah McEneaney attended college at Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and University of the Arts (formerly the Philadelphia College of Art), Philadelphia. Her works have been exhibited extensively with solo exhibitions at Tibor de Nagy Gallery, New York (2006); Gallery Schlesinger, New York (2004; also 2003, 2002, 2001); Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia (2004); Reynolds Gallery, Richmond, Virginia (2004); List Gallery, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania (2000); among others. She has received a number of prestigious grants and awards including: Academy of Arts and Letters Purchase Prize, multiple Yaddo Fellowships, Independence Foundation Fellowship in the Arts, Pew Fellowship in the Arts, and a Joan Mitchell Foundation Grant, to name a few. Born in Munich, Germany, she has lived in Philadelphia since the 1970s.



Sarah McEneaney, *P2P* 2007

Facts, Fantasies and Fictions is organized by
The Galleries at Moore and curated by Lorie Mertes,
Rochelle F. Levy Director and Chief Curator

CHECKLIST OF THE EXHIBITION:

CHRISTIAN CURIEL

In a Hole, In The Valley Of The Shadow of Doubt 2006

Oil on canvas,
84 x 88 inches
Courtesy the artist

No Hay Olvido (There Is No Forgetting) 2006

Oil on canvas
72 x 90 inches
Courtesy the artist

Sustenance 2007

Oil on canvas
63 x 79 inches
Courtesy the artist

Albino With Fowl 2007

Oil on canvas
63 x 79 inches
Courtesy the artist

SARAH McENEANEY

Acupuncture 2006

Egg tempera on wood
24 x 48 inches
Courtesy of the artist and Tibor de Nagy Gallery

Recent History 2006

Egg tempera on wood
17-3/4 x 11-3/4 inches
Courtesy of the artist and Tibor de Nagy Gallery

SPY-Pine 2006

Egg tempura on wood
20 x 24 inches
Collection of Michael and Sabine Bogdanski

Independence Day 2007

Egg tempera on linen
24 x 48 inches
Courtesy of the artist and Tibor de Nagy Gallery

P2P 2007

Egg tempera on wood
24 x 34 inches
Courtesy of the artist and Tibor de Nagy Gallery

Works on paper:

Casa Tankah Interior 2005

Gouache on paper
9 x 12 inches
Courtesy of the artist and Tibor de Nagy Gallery

Coba Birders 2005

Gouache on paper
9 x 12 inches
Courtesy of the artist and Tibor de Nagy Gallery

Coba Pyramid 2005

Gouache on paper
7 x 10 inches
Courtesy of the artist and Tibor de Nagy Gallery

Mango and Whitey 2005

Gouache on paper
7 x 10 inches
Courtesy of the artist and Tibor de Nagy Gallery

Peggy 2005

Gouache on paper
7 x 10 inches
Courtesy of the artist and Tibor de Nagy Gallery

Terri and Gaby 2005

Gouache on paper
7 x 10 inches
Courtesy of the artist and Tibor de Nagy Gallery



Christian Curiel, *Sustenance* 2007

TVR Hammock 2005
Gouache on paper
7 x 10 inches
Courtesy of the artist and Tibor de Nagy Gallery

Bora Bora Chien 2006
Gouache on paper
7-3/4 x 7-3/4 inches
Courtesy of the artist and Tibor de Nagy Gallery

Bora Bora from Motu Piti Aau 2006
Gouache on paper
7-3/4 x 7-3/4 inches
Courtesy of the artist and Tibor de Nagy Gallery

Chez Tiepo 2006
Gouache on paper
7-3/4 x 7-3/4 inches
Courtesy of the artist and Tibor de Nagy Gallery

Pakiri Beach, NZ 2006
Gouache on paper
9 x 12 inches
Courtesy of the artist and Tibor de Nagy Gallery

Tiepo Bungalow 2006
Gouache on paper
9 x 12 inches
Courtesy of the artist and Tibor de Nagy Gallery

Casa Tankah 2007
Gouache on paper
7 x 10 inches
Courtesy of the artist and Tibor de Nagy Gallery

Trixie 2007
Gouache on paper
7 x 10 inches
Courtesy of the artist and Tibor de Nagy Gallery

SP DD's Shirt 2007
Gouache on paper
10 x 7 inches
Courtesy of the artist and Tibor de Nagy Gallery



Matthew Suib, *Untitled (Flooded Room)* 2007

MATTHEW SUIB

COCKED 2003
(from the *ReVisionist Cinema* series)
Color video w/audio on DVD for projection
Running time: 10:00
Courtesy the artist

Heston 2004 (from the *ReVisionist Cinema* series)
Color video w/ Dolby Digital 5.1 surround audio on DVD for projection
Running time: 11:00
Courtesy the artist

The Desert Loops 2005
4-channel video/audio installation,
color video w/ Dolby 5.1 Surround
audio on DVD, projectors, LCD screen
Running time: (4) Continuous loops
Courtesy the artist

Untitled (Flooded Room) 2007
Color video on DVD for projection
Continuous loop
Courtesy the artist

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The Galleries at Moore

Moore College of Art & Design
20th Street and The Parkway
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1179

Front cover:

Matthew Suib, *The Desert Loops* 2005 (detail)

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