

## SITE UNSEEN 2006

### Site specific performances throughout the Chicago Cultural Center

#### **JULIE LAFFIN (Site Unseen curator)**

Julie Laffin is an independent curator and performance artist who has participated in *Site Unseen* since 2004. Laffin has shown her work widely in Chicago, nationally and internationally. She is performing in 2007 in Czechoslovakia and one of her video/performance works is currently on tour in Europe as part of the "History of Disappearance" exhibition.

#### **CIRCULATION ROOM by Mark Jeffery and Judd Morrissey - Preston Bradley Hall**

*Circulation Room* is a response to the site of the circulation room of the former Chicago Public Library. The work began with the development of responses derived from research into the history of the space, its architectural elements, and an archive of documentation from the "English Book Donation," an initiative by which 8,000 texts were shipped to Chicago following the great fire. Original and sourced texts and footage remixed by a computer program are projected onto the windows, transforming the room into a machine disseminating and circulating visual and textual information. **Mark Jeffery** is an adjunct assistant professor at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago where he teaches in the Performance Department and First Year Program. Mark's work incorporates performance, installation, object, and video. He is a member of Goat Island, a collaborative international performance group based in Chicago. **Judd Morrissey** is a writer and programmatic text artist whose work in electronic literature has been widely and internationally received and exhibited. He teaches in the Writing, Performance, & Art and Technology Studies departments at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and is also an Associate Member of the Goat Island performance group. Special thanks to The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Purcell and Jim Palmer Catwalk Residency, NY, Goat Island Performance Group and Morag Walsh Senior Archival Specialist, Special Collection and Preservation Division, Chicago Public Library.

#### **COM-PEN-DI-UM by Plasticene (Sharon Göpfert, Eric Leonardson, Dexter Bullard and Leigh Barrett) - Sidney R. Yates Gallery**

People on display. A gallery of ghostly readers. Plasticene assembles a hall of players who occupy the privacy of moment found with one light, one chair and one book. Until their worlds must overlap...

Using trademark physicality, an atmospheric soundscape, and scenic ingenuity, Plasticene creates a constantly-shifting, fascinating site-specific experiment in human spatial interaction.

**Sharon Göpfert** has been a Plasticene company member since 1998. She has performed with TrapDoor, Redmoon, Curious, and Local Infinities; acted in independent films; and choreographed for Chicago Opera Theater and Barat College. **Eric Leonardson** is a composer, radio artist, sound designer, instrument inventor and improviser and co-founder of Plasticene. He is an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Sound and First Year Program at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and recipient of a 2006 Media Arts Fellowship from the Illinois Arts Council. **Dexter Bullard** co-founded Plasticene in 1995 and has directed and collaboratively created eleven original works that have been seen throughout Chicago, The Edinburgh Fringe Festival and in New York City. He is Head of Graduate Acting and Showcase Artistic Director with The Theatre School at DePaul University. **Leigh Barrett** is a Plasticene and Stage Left Company member and has been in Chicago stage managing and designing lights since her graduation from Bradley University in 1989.

### **LACHRYMOSE by Roslyn Broder - First Floor Washington Room**

Two people weep inconsolably on video from wall to floor. Roslyn Broder, a graphic designer and filmmaker, holds a BFA degree in painting and drawing, and an MFA in filmmaking from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Her experimental video documents crying and tears.

### **MUSIC FROM THE 4TH OF JULY by Nathan Butler - First Floor Garland Room**

Nathan attempts to construct a multi-channel voicing of The United States Constitution based on the movements of the body and recorded material from this year's 4th of July fireworks celebration in his neighborhood. A systematic series of recordings ensue. The public is invited to participate in the recording. Nathan Butler performs with various electronic systems that respond to both the vigorous movements of his body and the situation of the performance. He has an MFA in Sound from the School of the Art Institute.

### **RE-TRACE by Sara Schnadt - Kitchen (behind Preston Bradley Hall)**

Located in the entryway to the original stacks for Chicago's first permanent public library, Sara Schnadt traces hundreds of strands of red wool across projected samplings of information and knowledge structures from the library's early collection. This activity mimics the labor, memory and ingenuity of the librarians who, in the same space, accessed the sizable collection for the public without aid of a card catalog or any logical organization system. Over the course of the performance, additional gestures accumulate to conjure the evolution of searching for information from the turn of the century to the present, and the rich fabric of our collective memory. Sara Schnadt is a Chicago-based performance installation artist. Her work uses games, information systems and found materials to explore what people consider as fact, collective knowledge, ethos and fantasy. Sara holds an MFA from The School of The Art Institute. She has performed and exhibited her work in Chicago, Glasgow, Paris, and Frankfurt.

### **RISE/RUN by Annette Barbier and Drew Browning (unreal-estates)**

#### **Fourth Floor Lobby on the Randolph Stairwell**

Chicago's loop is one of the most heavily surveilled areas in the world, and it is common knowledge that United States government agencies have an unhealthy interest in our reading habits. The setting of this show - the former home of the Chicago Public Library - inspired this work, which constructs a dialogue between "dangerous" and "suspicious" book listings and surreptitious views of Chicago Cultural Center visitors. **Annette Barbier and Drew Browning** have collaborated since the mid 1970's. Both have MFAs from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Browning is the director of the Design Visualization Lab at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Barbier chairs the Interactive Arts and Media department at Columbia College. They use new technologies to explore issue of identity on a local and global basis.

### **SAY THAT! by Cristal Sabbagh - Chicago Rooms**

*Say That!* is an ensemble piece inspired by the stereotypes of women and their lasting effects on society. These personal and public effects are experienced in a durational performance, activated by the audience. Movement inspired by butoh, improvisation and gesture, work in tandem with memories, myths, and emotions. Directed and performed by Cristal Sabbagh in collaboration with Anida Yoeu Esguerra, Rachel Finan, Keiko Johnson, Clover Morell, and Andrea Wukitsch. Cristal Sabbagh would like to give a special thanks to the following people: Her husband Elias Sabbagh for his unwavering support, and also for being a phenomenal sound engineer; her brother Vincent Smith and her sister in law Alison Smith for taking amazing promotional photos; to Kelly Hamilton, owner of I DO, inc., the wedding gowns are incredible; Ania Greiner and Liz Winfield

for filming; Skye Francaise, and Michelle Alba for photography; a special thanks to Anida Yoeu Esguerra & Keiko Johnson for additional work on the promotional photos; and last but not least her ensemble members for believing in this project and sharing so much with the group.

### **SCENE UNHEARD by Matthew Owens - G.A.R. Hall**

A debate without words, a dance without dancers, a race without runners, theater without actors. Matthew Owens latest puppet piece avoids the cumbersome expectation of thematic text and embraces chaos. Owens is a Chicago-based artist, performer, puppeteer, and musician.

### **SECURE by Industry of the Ordinary (Adam Brooks and Mathew Wilson) Washington Street Lobby**

In common with many public institutions, the Chicago Cultural Center employees a staff of security personnel to ensure the safety of the space and its patrons. Also in common with many public spaces, this security staff is often relegated to a marginal position in the perception of the public that uses the space. For *Secure*, Industry of the Ordinary produced a large format photographic portrait of all the security personnel. **Adam Brooks** and **Mathew Wilson** currently live and work in Chicago, and have collaborated on award-winning exhibitions and performances around the world since 1993. More information regarding Industry of the Ordinary's history, projects and press publications can be found at [www.industryoftheordinary.com](http://www.industryoftheordinary.com). Special thanks to Jay Wolke.

### **THE CHARIOTEER by Joan Dickinson - Claudia Cassidy Theater**

This performance includes the screening of video documentation over a ten-year period during which time artist Joan Dickinson worked as a restoration ecologist and farmer in McHenry County. The documentation has been shaped into an urban narrative fitting for a movie palace such as Claudia Cassidy Theater. This multi-media performance is structured by 39 narratives woven to tell the story of the death of a 15-year-old girl along the banks of the River Rouge in Detroit, Michigan in 1938. Dickinson teaches at and is the associate chair of the Interdisciplinary Arts Department at Columbia College Chicago. Her work has been awarded numerous grants and fellowships.

### **WE'LL MISS YOU! by Justin Cooper - Randolph Café**

*We'll Miss You!* is a multi-segmented, musically oriented performance starring Justin Cooper, Benjamin Bellas, Ross Moreno and Jayve Montgomery, which describes the events leading up to some guy's big (but not that big) promotion. Please do not be alarmed: the alligator is not real. In utilizing the mediums of performance, video and sculpture, Chicago artist Justin Cooper creates provocative relationships that explore issues of balance, of the power dynamics that exist between people, the struggles of growth, and the simply absurd workings of the human psyche through work that is both highly personal and weirdly socially relevant.

### **WHAT KIND OF SKY DO YOU LIKE? By Ginger Krebs - G.A.R. Rotunda**

*What Kind of Sky do you Like?* responds to the architectural contrast in the G.A.R. rotunda between a rectilinear, gridded floor and a spherical, vaulted ceiling. It explores the human longing for transcendence, and the beauty, humor and heartache that result from our diverse and tireless efforts to realize it. Featuring Lily Emerson, Carol McCurdy, Taavo Smith, Sara Thompson, Alex Miles Younger, Ben Stuber and Lindsay Weinberg. Ginger Krebs is a performance and multi-media artist based in Chicago. She studies butoh and teaches performance and time arts at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago.



City of Chicago  
Richard M. Daley, Mayor  
Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs  
Lois Weisberg, Commissioner

78 E. Washington Street  
312-744-6630  
[www.chicagoculturalcenter.org](http://www.chicagoculturalcenter.org)