

ALABAMA ARTISTS GALLERY

Original Language: Contemporary Art of Alabama

September 12 - October 29, 2010



This exhibition presents the work of five Alabama artists exploring materials and processes to make complex contemporary statements.

Artists in the exhibition: **Pinky/MM Bass**, *Fairhope*; **Christopher Jordan**, *Tuscaloosa*; **Bruce Larsen**, *Fairhope*; **binx newton**, *Birmingham*; and **Cooper Spivey**, *Birmingham*.

Pinky/MM Bass, *Fairhope*: BODY NOTES: Photographic Instruments. Bass writes, "In 1999 my eldest son was killed, followed shortly by my sister's death from cancer. I became obsessed with the human body and how it functions or fails to do so. Questions about what it's like inside the body led me to begin stitching internal organs on my photographs. I began to wonder about how the figure or its internal organs would sound musically." Body Notes is the result of that exploration." Each sculpture is equipped with a motorized petit comonium which functions on the same principal as old player pianos. Holes punched in the photograph allow the musical movement to "plunk" their corresponding notes, thus creating an abstract piece of music that defines the shape of the photographic image being run through the comonium. Visitors can activate each music box by pressing the on/off pedal located in front of the sculpture.

Christopher Jordan, *Tuscaloosa*: The series, Ablation Points, depicts fictitious glacial scenes as an extended metaphor for climate change. The images are digitally enhanced photographs of miniature / model landscapes constructed in the studio. Large-format photographs are made quickly as the scenes melt. Through this process, singular moments are captured that lend themselves to mythic visual statements. Christopher Jordan currently holds a full-time faculty position at the University of Alabama.

Bruce Larsen, *Fairhope*: Bruce Larsen is a self-employed artist. His works are constructed of materials he discovers on the beach and rural land. They also include objects from his family and international travel. He places them in the assemblages as a form of honor and reverence. His themes relate to environmental and political issues. The State Arts Council sent Larsen as visiting artist for the 2008 Cultural Exchange program with Pietrasanta, Italy. While there he collaborated with Charlie Lucas to create a major exhibition in only two weeks of objects using discarded materials found in the city scrap yard and on the beach.

binx newton, *Birmingham*: the palimpsestuous. newton writes about the work, which uses a bar code in each image, "Commodity has completed its colonization of social life - commodities are now all there is to see." "Shopping is arguably the last remaining form of public activity. Through a battery of increasingly predatory forms, shopping has infiltrated, colonized, and even replaced, almost every aspect of urban life." newton is an artist and architect.

Cooper Spivey, *Birmingham*: Cooper Spivey is Adjunct Professor in the Department of Art & Art History at Birmingham Southern College. His work is broadly narrative, and the pieces on exhibit are based on themes of growing old in a youth-centered society. He has received Visual Arts Fellowships in 1996 from the Alabama State Council on the Arts and in 1995 from the National Endowment for the Arts/Southern Arts Federation.