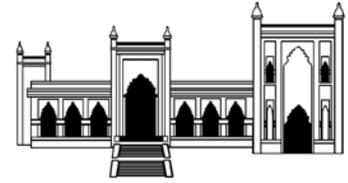


Brand Library Art Galleries

Glendale Public Library
1601 West Mountain Street
Glendale, CA 91201
Telephone: 818-548-2051 / Fax: 818-548-5079
www.brandlibrary.org

Media Contact: Cathy Billings, Gallery Manager, 818-548-2713



PRESS RELEASE

Silence remains, inescapably, a form of speech.

-Susan Sontag, *The Aesthetics of Silence*, 1967

The Brand Library Art Galleries and curators Renée Martin and Heather Rasmussen are pleased to present **Curious Silence**, an exhibition that brings together a group of artists working in “silence,” or letting something visual they’ve made speak on their behalf. The selection of artists is related by a shared investment in process and perception specifically—each participant is looking close, doing the time, making calculated and researched interpretations, and visually expressing that process in a compelling, poetic way.

On view: January 15 – February 25, 2011

Opening Reception: Saturday, January 15, 6-9 p.m.

The nine artists featured—**Bijoux Altamirano, Jennifer Bastian, Bridget Carron, Siri Kaur, Renée Martin, Julia Paull, Heather Rasmussen, Fay Ray** and **Carly Steward**—come from a generation influenced by the lives and accomplishments of artistic, critical and performance figures like Susan Sontag, Gloria Steinem, and Rosalind Kraus, Debbie Harry, Patti Smith, and Kim Gordon, Marina Abramović, Sophie Calle and Eleanor Antin. Not only eloquently letting their practices speak for them, they also recognized the powerful and problematic nature of beauty and style in mainstream consciousness. They collectively helped shape public awareness of a new, post-modern femininity that the exhibition artists live and negotiate every day.

While the concept of the show grew out of ongoing conversations the curators shared about their recent re-visiting of Sontag’s work, the title of the show was taken from Patrick Moore’s editorial in *The Los Angeles Times*, written in criticism to Sontag’s conservative obituaries that conspicuously omitted her relationship to the gay and lesbian community. Moore argues that Sontag’s “lesbian relationships surely affected her work and our understanding of it,” and further posited that “continued silence about lesbians in American culture amounts to bias” acutely felt by females living and working in the public sphere.

The idea of women in art and the perceived difference of struggle they may or may not encounter could be seen as cliché (the curators and artists continue to debate this issue.) The artists working here span multiple mediums and visual sensibilities—they address the acutely personal, the overtly commercial, the sublime and the grotesque. But all the work exemplifies a measured critical response to a lived experience of our hyper-visual, information and technology-saturated culture. Whether the work, which much like Sontag’s draws from both research and pointed personal experience, can transcend the often pre-conceived or assigned perspective of working as a female, is yet to be seen.

In celebration of the exhibition a publication will be produced with a contributing text by **A.S. Hamrah**, further investigating both Sontag’s writing and the “aesthetics of silence” in relationship to the works in the show. Hamrah lives in Brooklyn, New York and has written for *Newsday*, *Bookforum*, *Mother Jones* and *The Los Angeles Times*. His essays have recently been published in the books *Defining Moments in Movies* (Cassell) and *Taking Things Seriously* (Princeton Architectural Press). Hamrah has also appeared on the National Public Radio programs *Talk of the Nation* and *Weekend Edition Sunday*, and on the BBC. He is the film editor for *n+1*, a thrice-yearly print journal of politics, literature, and culture.

Artist Biographies

Bijoux Altamirano received her BFA from the Pratt Institute in 2009. Her influences are many, including Kenneth Anger, Cedric Gibbons (MGM studios' art director during the 1930's), Cecil Beaton's art direction and costume design, Guy Bourdin, Helmut Newton, Karl Lagerfeld, Alejandro Jodorowsky, and Tod Browning's films *Freaks* and *Dracula*. She takes historical references and reconstructs them in her own way. Altamirano is closely associated with Kembra Pfahler and a member of her theatrical rock band The Voluptuous Horror of Karen Black since 2000. Altamirano lives and works in New York City. More information about her work can be found on her Vimeo page <http://vimeo.com/bijoux>.

Jennifer Bastian was born in Southeastern Wisconsin and received her MFA from University of Wisconsin in 2008. She recently had an exhibition through CANAL, using surveys to augment her endless photographic archive. Bastian explores shared notions of separation; giving a gift at the end of collective explorations of suffering. She has been included in many group exhibitions throughout the country, including the UCLA Wight Biennial in Los Angeles in 2007. While a graduate student, Bastian was an artist in residence at The Museum of Jurassic Technology in Los Angeles, and at Spindleworks Artist's Center, Brunswick, Maine in 2006. She currently lives in Los Angeles, and works as the Eric Gill Project Archivist at the William Andrews Clark Memorial Library. More information about Bastian's work can be found on her website <http://jenniferbastian.com/home.html>.

Bridget Carron is currently attending The Art Institute of Chicago for her MFA in Art History and she received her BA from the University of Southern California in 2005. Carron explores estranged interior spaces combined with her current environment whose conflicting tensions form her identity. She creates a visually warped logic with architectural spaces articulated through abstraction. By manipulating these once familiar spaces in contrast to those of her daily routine, she visually represents her distrust of the substance, steadfastness, and dependability that these spaces once stood for. Her paintings juxtapose loud colors and thick oil paint with open areas of surface that escalate the odd serenity of the intangible environment. Carron lives and works in Chicago.

Siri Kaur received her MFA from CalArts, and an MA in Italian Studies and BA in Comparative Literature from Smith College. Her photographs have been exhibited in numerous group shows, including 401 Projects in New York, Hayworth Gallery in Los Angeles, the Torrance Museum of Art, and the UCLA Wight Biennial. Kaur's work is in the permanent collections of The National Gallery in D.C. and the University of Maine. She lives and works in Los Angeles, where she is currently a Lecturer at Otis College of Art and Design. More information about Kaur's work can be found on her website <http://www.sirikaur.com/sirikaur.com/home.html>.

Renée Martin received her BFA from the University of Southern California in 2005. In 2009 Martin had a one-person exhibition at the 3001 Gallery at USC's Roski School of Fine Arts. She is interested in ideas of preservation and functionality in nature and society, working within documentary photography. Martin lives and works in Los Angeles.

Julia Paull earned her BA from the University of California, Santa Barbara and her MFA from CalArts. Working in both drawing and photography, Paull is concerned with physical manifestations of the human condition as experienced bodily and psychologically. Her current photographs examine the processes of growth and death in people, plants and animals. Both her drawing and photographs take into account an exploration of the possibilities of what it means to draw. Julia Paull teaches in the photography area of the USC Roski School of Fine Arts. Recent solo exhibitions include South La Brea Gallery, Intime Gallery, and Chapman University. Currently she has work up in Anonymous Drawings No 9, Berlin, Germany. She has been in group exhibitions at London Street Projects, Three day Weekend, the Democratic National Convention, Beyond Baroque and the Los Angeles Center for Photographic Studies. She has received grants from the Durfee Foundation and The University of Southern California Lyon Fine Arts Faculty Research Fund. More information about Paull's work can be found on her website <http://www.juliapaull.com/>.

Heather Rasmussen received her BA from UC Irvine in 2004 and her MFA from CalArts in 2007. She has recently exhibited in the show 31 Women in Art Photography, with Humble Arts Foundation. In September 2009, Rasmussen had her second solo exhibition in the Sandroni Rey Container, Los Angeles, a shipping container turned gallery space. In March 2009, Rasmussen had her first solo exhibition, ship happens, with Light & Wire Gallery in Los Angeles. Her work was recently published in the book *Unfolded, Paper in Design, Art, Architecture and Industry*, alongside artists such as Olafur Eliasson, Thomas Demand and Frank Gehry. Rasmussen lives and works in Los Angeles. More information about Rasmussen's work can be found on her website <http://www.heatherrasmussen.com/>.

Fay Ray received her BFA from Otis College of Art and Design, Los Angeles in 2003 and an MFA from Columbia University in 2005. She recently has had her work featured by Gagosian Gallery, and LAXART. She has been in group shows throughout the world, including Inferno in Yautepec, Mexico City, Works on Paper at Anna Kustera Gallery in New York and Counter Intelligence at the Luckman Gallery in Los Angeles. Through collage and sculpture she seeks to expand beyond the mere coupling of the mechanical and corporeal but rather an exchange of parts and textures that facilitates a core transformation. Fay Ray lives and works in Los Angeles.

Carly Steward received a BFA from Otis College of Art and Design, Los Angeles in 2003 and an MFA from CalArts, Los Angeles in 2007. She is a recent recipient of the Artist's Studio Residency at One Colorado, where Steward has created an interactive exhibition called The Arrangement, on view through January 2011. Steward has exhibited in many group shows including: Interactions: Armory Artists and Their Art at The Armory Center for the Arts in Pasadena; De Pasada Por Los Angeles at Atelier als Supermedium in The Hague, Netherlands; Photo Femmes at Caren Golden Fine Art in 2006 in New York; Speakeasy at Uospace, L.A. Design Center in 2005; Disquieted at 4-F Gallery in Los Angeles in 2004. She lives and works in Pasadena, where she is currently a teacher at the Armory Center for the Arts.

Brand Library Art Galleries is located in northwest Glendale, easily accessed via the Golden State (5) or Ventura (134) freeways. Hours are Tuesday and Thursday, 12-8 pm; Wednesday, 12-6 pm; and Friday and Saturday, 10 am-5 pm. Admission to all events is free and open to the public unless otherwise stated. There is ample free parking. Call 818-548-2051 or visit www.brandlibrary.org for additional information.

Images follow



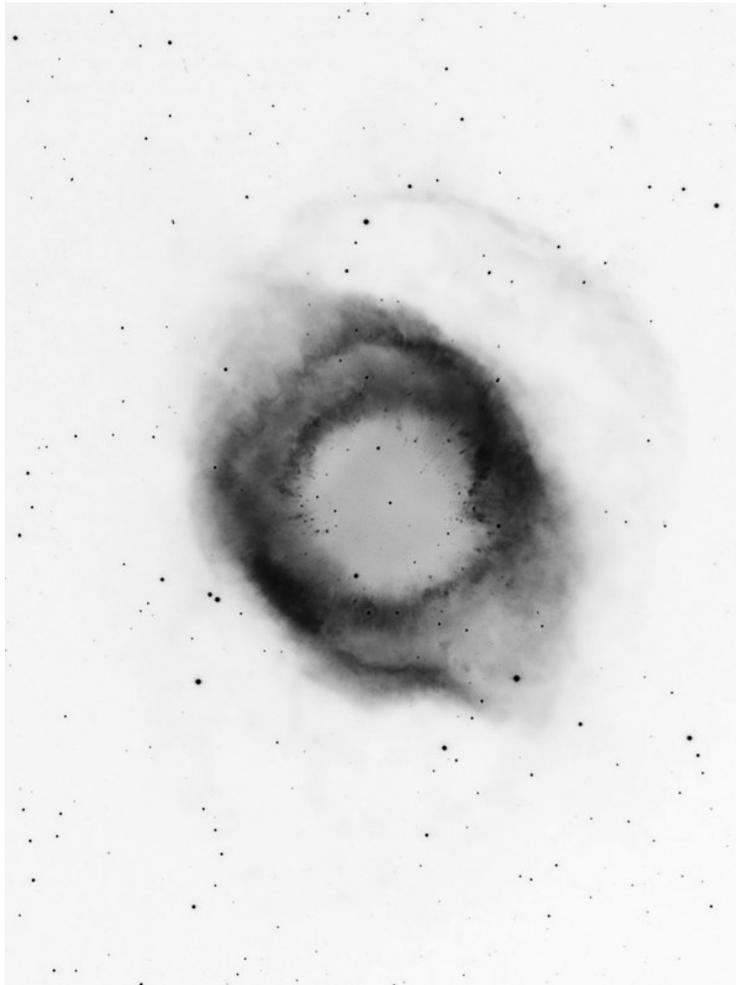
Bijoux Altamirano, *Behind the Wall of Sleep*, Parts 1-4, 2008



Jennifer Bastian, *My Father's Office*, 2008



Bridget Carron, *Untitled*, 2009



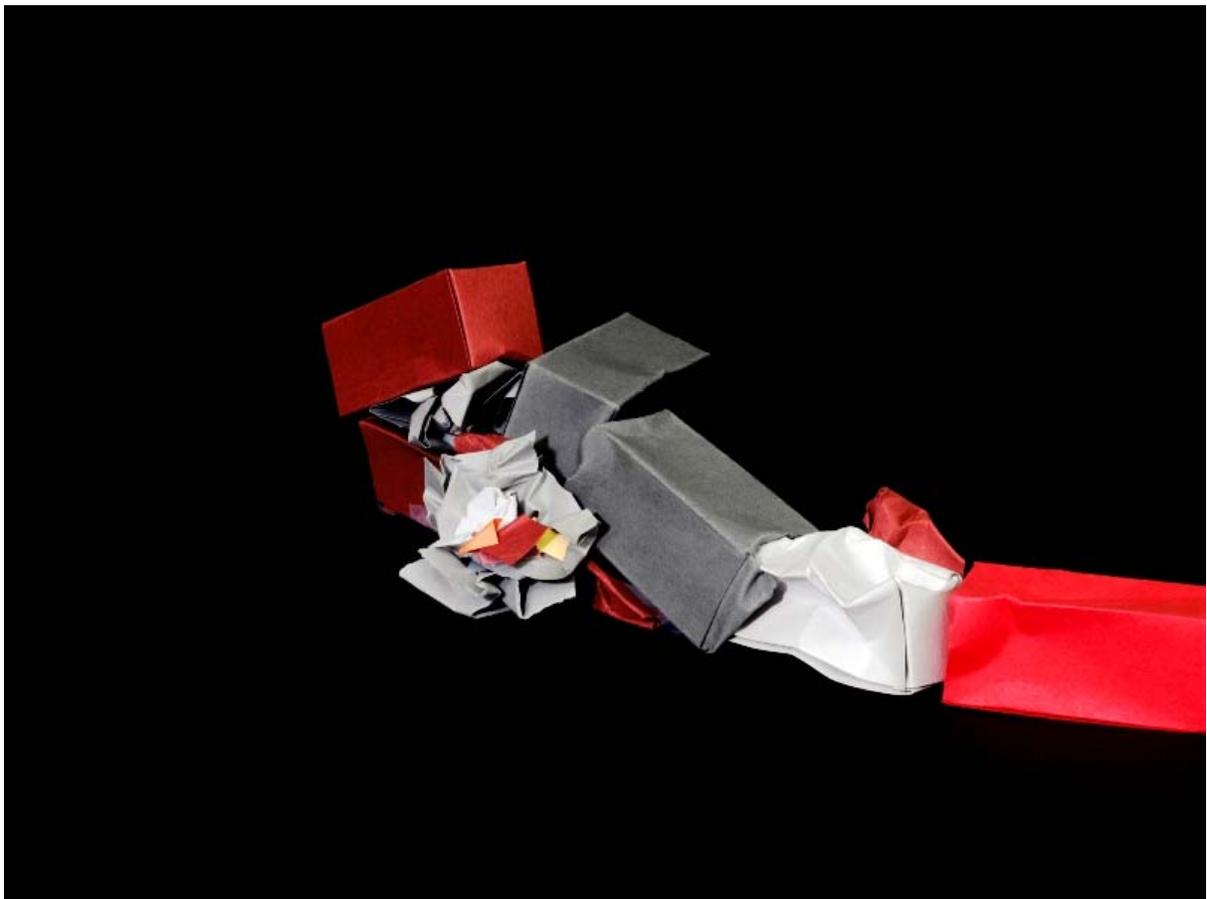
Siri Kaur, *Black Hole (Darkroom Experiment #4)*, 2009



Renée Martin, *Untitled (Harris Hawk)*, 2008



Julia Paull, *I am me, You are you, N 4*, 2010



Heather Rasmussen. *Untitled. (Goods Train, Ngawawahia Railway Bridge, New Zealand, March 4, 1998)*, 2009



Fay Ray, *Snow White In Her Grave*, 2010



Carly Steward, *Untitled Sculpture #1*, 2008

end