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BAC GALLERY PRESENTS “FUNNY HA HA”


BROOKLYN, NY - (February 25, 2012) Brooklyn Art Council’s BAC Gallery presents a new exhibition for spring 2012, Funny Ha Ha, a group show that explores different approaches to using humor in art to make a serious statement.

The exhibition was curated by Courtney Wendroff, BAC’s Visual Arts Director, and features works from Brooklyn artists Ernest Concepcion, Katy Higgins, Beth Krebs and Iviva Olenick. The opening reception will be held Thursday, March 1, from 6 – 8pm.

“Undoubtedly, humor is subjective,” said show curator Courtney Wendroff. “And, artworks that go for the obvious joke can be easily dismissed as insincere or simply entertainment. But, humor can also be used as a tactic, a way to help the audience digest serious ideas.”

There are many theories that attempt to explain what humor is, what social function it serves, and what would be considered humorous. Artists sometimes use humor to question relationships between art and everyday life, but can art be both critical and humorous? Funny Ha Ha looks at this question through the eyes of four different artists.

Ernest Concepcion works in painting, sculpture and installation, using conventions of photorealism and landscape, but employing fantastical elements to explore alternative universes. He also uses concepts of war in the process of painting itself, strategically invading the landscapes by drawing armies on the surface following topographical formations, eventually turning tranquil natural scenarios into potential battlefields. Concepcion has exhibited in the U.S. and abroad, and is currently at work on a graphic novel.

Katy Higgins explores the complicated relationships people have to the natural world, and the tension between the natural and artificial found in representations of landscapes and living things. Her work examines how people choose to shape, re-create, and/or represent the natural world to fit various needs, and abandon the natural in favor of artificial facsimile. Her work has been shown locally at Smack Mellon, Rush Arts, and the DUMBO Under the Bridge Festival. She has also exhibited in Florida, New Hampshire and Vermont.

Like her installations and videos, Beth Krebs’s drawings imagine a new possibility in a real, and often ordinary, place. Her work encourages a suspension of disbelief and asks
people to notice where they are and, with humor, to imagine what else might be possible there. Her videos, a selection of which will be featured in the gallery on Thursday, April 5th, use basic materials to make extraordinary interruptions in ordinary spaces. Krebs has exhibited extensively around the New York City area including Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM), the Bronx Museum of Art, The Jersey City Museum of Art, Smack Mellon Gallery, the Cue Foundation, Real Artways and the Elizabeth Foundation Project Space.

Iviva Olenick’s hand embroidered pieces include text and illustration on scraps of fabric, what she refers to as a selection of “wry post-its.” Also on view is Olenick’s Brooklyn Love Map, which includes snippets of love stories she collected for her project, The Brooklyn Love Exchange. For this project, funded by the Greater New York Arts Development Fund of the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and administered by the Brooklyn Arts Council, Olenick collected stories from current and former Brooklynites about their romantic encounters and relationships and turned it into an embroidered artwork. Olenick also works as a textile designer and teaches at 3rd Ward in Brooklyn, the Pratt Center for Continuing and Professional Studies in Manhattan, and the Center for Book Arts.

ABOUT BAC GALLERY
BAC Gallery (111 Front Street, Suite 218) is located in the heart of the vibrant DUMBO arts district and offers artists an opportunity to show their art in an environment frequented by a host of arts enthusiasts and professionals – from collectors, artists and administrators to gallerists and community organizers. Regular gallery hours are Monday-Friday from 11am-5pm. All of the artists included in the BAC Gallery exhibition program are members of BAC’s Online Registry of Brooklyn Artists. Contact Visual Arts Director Courtney J. Wendroff @ 718-625-0080 for more information or email gallery@brooklynartscouncil.org.

BAC Gallery participates in DUMBO 1st Thursday. Come down the first Thursday of every month for special programming and extended gallery hours! BAC 1st Thursday programs are made possible, in part, by support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

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