



55 Washington Street, Suite 218  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

TEL 718.625.0080  
FAX 718.625.3294

bac@brooklynartscouncil.org  
www.brooklynartscouncil.org

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Press Contact:** Sara DeRose, 718.625.0080, sderose@brooklynartscouncil.org

### ***The Lack of Desire* - January 17 – April 11, 2008**

Curator: Scott Henstrand

**BROOKLYN, NY - (November 13, 2007)** BAC Gallery is pleased to announce the group exhibition, ***The Lack of Desire***, curated by Scott Henstrand. ***The Lack of Desire*** seeks to visually represent, from a side glance, what our desires intimate: the universal lack existing in the multiple recesses of our psyche from which our fleeting and never-ending desire springs. The artworks chosen for this exhibition offers the viewer a way to be present with lack rather than escape into the endless feedback loop of desire.

**WHEN:** January 17 – April 11, 2008

**WHERE:** BAC Gallery, 111 Front Street, Suite 218, Brooklyn

**RECEPTION:** Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 6-8 pm

**FIRST THURSDAY CURATORIAL DISCUSSION:** Thursday, February 7, 6-8 pm  
Speakers include the artists, curator Scott Henstrand and Janet Thormann, Lacanian theorist and editor.

**FIRST THURSDAY FILM/VIDEO SCREENING:** Thursday, March 6, 7 pm

In many ways, human beings *desire* to keep desire from being fulfilled. Without it, we would be empty, our Self would disappear. We hunt and create objects that articulate desire, but simultaneously point to its inherent lack. In fact, lack is revealed as the positive object and desire becomes a nebulous abstraction.

How do we experience this lack? Desire drives narrative. We spin our tale around desire. Lack is the absence of this narrative and reads as a “block,” a loss of narrative and direction. This is manifest in an individual viewed from behind or the smoke of an ambiguous fire. It is disclosed in the incomprehensible blankness of a doll, inanimate and pre-language.

Photographers **Carey Denniston**, **Gary Heller** and **Joelle Jensen** give us interiors of human design but without human presence; highlighting the objectness of the artifacts we collect in our demand to fulfill our insatiable needs. In the only direct sexual references in the show, **Carl Gunhouse** and **Joseph Sahadi** reflect on the mundane drive of sexual desire, while **Carol Radsprecher** hysterically looks past signs and the signage of gender. With the work of **Sara Katz** and **Hyo-jeong Nam**, we are left wondering about a demand that is never filled, either in celebrity or the reading of a newspaper. **Jill Magi** and **Heather Willems** point to the obfuscating nature of language itself in the similarities of a book rent of its usual signs and one overfilled with the redundantly scribbled phrase “I love you.” Other attempts at representing lack include work by **Miya Andostanoff**, **Lisa Dahl**, **Joshua Edwards**, **Lee Heekin**, **Luke Herron**, **June Kim**, **Maria Kondratiev**, **Jennifer Lehe**, **Ayanna McCloud**, **Nayira Polanco**, **Richard Snyder**, **Carlo Vialu**, and **Janna Washington**.

Two evenings during the exhibition will be devoted to further exploration of the *Lack of Desire*. On Thursday, February 7, 2008 BAC Gallery presents a discussion about particular works and the overall theme of ***The Lack of Desire*** with the curator, artists

and **Janet Thormann**. Ms. Thormann, representing the San Francisco Society for Lacanian Studies, teaches English at the College of Marin in California, is an editor for the Journal of European Psychoanalysis, and has published on Old and Middle English poetry and contemporary writing using Lacanian theory. On the first Thursday in March, there will be a viewing of videos, including *Freund Hein* by **Elizabeth Smolarz**.

#### **ABOUT THE CURATOR**

**Scott Henstrand** considers himself just another artist producing more artifacts, filling Place in an attempt to glance under the “defective matrix”. His most recent exhibition, *The Ambiguity of the Social Hysterical Revelation* is on view at Duke University, December 10, 2007- January 13, 2008.

#### **ABOUT BAC GALLERY**

BAC Gallery 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 this exhibition are members of BAC's Online *Registry of Brooklyn Artists*. Contact Gallery Coordinator Courtney J. Wendroff @ 718.625.0080 for more information.

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Brooklyn Arts Council (BAC), an arts and services organization founded in 1966, is the umbrella for Brooklyn's range of cultural groups and individual artists working in the visual, performing, media, and literary arts. BAC helps Brooklyn's artist population—from the experimental to those preserving and evolving traditions of cultural heritage—create and present their work. BAC ensures that thousands of people throughout Brooklyn have access to a variety of free arts programming each year. Our programs are essential to the livelihoods of artists, creative professionals, and arts organizations across the borough.

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