Department of Art Presents **TARY** ΟΜΕΝ Μ

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

MFA 2011 EXHIBITION

Emerging from three years of intensive studio work, the 2011 UO MFA Thesis Exhibition presents compelling bodies of work from nine artists on the cusp of their professional careers, equipped for the ongoing challenges and rewards of an art practice. The range of work reflects diverse and engaged responses to the contemporary context. Drawing on a rich history of visual language and material practice, they are forging their own paths and cultivating new approaches.

Informed by rigorous discussions with their faculty members, their peers, and a remarkable series of visiting artists, these nine artists have followed individual lines of inquiry and have gone through countless iterations and revisions in the studio to arrive at this work. A thesis exhibition is not an end, but rather a 'Momentary Interruption' that marks the beginning of a sustained and evolving future practice.

Saura K. Vandenburgh

Laura Vandenburgh Associate Professor and Head Department of Art

DEPARTMENT OF ART FACULTY MEMBERS

Carla Bengtson, Tannaz Farsi, Brian Gillis, Ron Graff, Craig Hickman, Colin Ives, Anya Kivarkis, Sana Krusoe, Charlene Liu, Donald Morgan, John Park, Dan Powell, Sara Rabinowitz, Jack Ryan, Michael Salter, Ying Tan, Kartz Ucci, Laura Vandenburgh, Terri Warpinski, Amanda Wojick

XISITING

Diana Al-Hadid, Liz Collins, Chitra Ganesh, Hung Keung, Roy McMakin, Akihiko Miyoshi, Paul Sacaridiz, Stephen Vitiello, Andrea Zittel



Through the transformation of the material and structure of stuffed animals, my sculptures evoke new associations from these familiar objects. The shift in form of the plush toy generates complication and uncertainty of intent, challenging our expectations of simplicity or innocence from these childhood symbols.





Julie Berkbuegler-Poremba

I am a visual hunter-gatherer. My process requires observation and collection of images from popular media's representation of luxury culture and high fashion. The investigation of the media's visual language of femininity, sexuality, and beauty motivate my processes. I re-appropriate, reuse, and re-interpret that material and construct new images and objects. My work seeks to reconcile personal and cultural understanding of traditional ideals of beauty, privilege, class, and the plethora of female imagery present in contemporary visual culture.



The scratches on the floor where the dog used to lay, the touch of a certain red knit sweater that recalls the warm caress of my grandmother's hands—these signifiers of memory and experience are at the core of my recent work. Using prints, photographs, found objects and installation spaces, I explore ideas of memory, identity, and intimacy, including the beautiful failure that accompanies our desire to preserve one's identity through the realm of time.





My work is about my relationships with places, spaces, and landscapes. My imagery is motivated by my longing to return to places, my travel between places, the acceptance of my present place and my projections of ideas about places I want to be. These relationships inform the visual language of my work.



born: Lee's Summit, Missouri



Through photographic imagery, my work examines various social narratives that emerge from the production of inexpensive ceramic animal figurines. My questions revolve around ways that the transformation from three-dimensional object to that of the photograph can change one's perceptual and conceptual basis for viewing these animal forms and their gestures. Within this role as artist, I can manipulate the bashful into submissive, the playful into erotic.



born: Indianapolis, Indiana



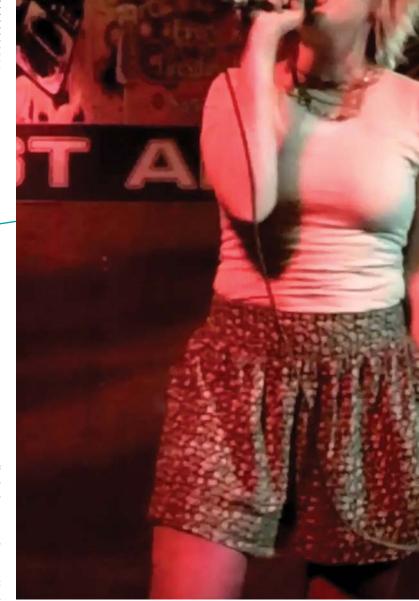
Peter Pazderski born: Chicago, Illinois

Like many people today, I spend a lot of time existing within the virtual spaces of video games and social networks. My artwork has become a cathartic means of exorcising my own addictive tendencies to technology. Within my current installation work *Me Mario*, I am exploring the collision of physical and virtual space, the value we place on digital objects, and our current cultural addiction to technology.



born. Casimere, Washington

My work considers the deterioration of language through contemporary technology and the parallel disintegration of an identity through popular love songs. Through the process of technological transcription and personal translation, I create video, audio, and performance works that visually and audibly illustrate miscommunication and misinterpretation by exploring love lyrics: written, spoken, and sung.





Sonia R. born: Palo Alto, California

My work explores the personalities of inanimate objects. Currently, I focus on barrettes and scrunchies and their cousins, bungee cords and clamps. Their kinship in terms of materials, design, and function, reveals they are doppelgangers in parallel gender universes. The interaction of hair tools, hardware tools, and their companion objects, lumber and steel, creates a playful mix of fragility, grace, utilitarianism, and strength, recalling youth and infinite possibilities.

Josh Wardle born: Abergavenny, Wales, United Kingdom

My work explores the role of language in ascribing a structured system of meaning to the world, one that presents itself as both unified and absolute. This document, its contents, and these words are one example of such a system. Department of Art School of Architecture and Allied Arts 5232 University of Oregon Eugene OR 97403-5232 541-346-3610 artuo@uoregon.edu aaa.uoregon.edu/art

The Department of Art gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the following contributors to the MFA program: Susan T. Ballinger, in memory of Court Ballinger Geraldine Leiman







An equal-opportunity affirmative-action institution committed to cultural diversity and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. This publication will be provided in accessible formats upon request. Accommodations for people with disabilities will be provided if requested in advance by calling 541-346-3610. © 2011 University of Oregon DES0411-001dl-A18453