



PORTLAND INSTITUTE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Between my head and my hands, there is always the face of death.
Curated by Kristan Kennedy

When: Monday, January 17 – Saturday, March 26, 2010.

Where: Feldman Gallery + Project Space, PNCA, 1241 NW Johnson, Portland, OR

Opening Reception: Thursday, February 3, 2011 6:00 pm

From January 17 through March 26, PICA, in collaboration with PNCA's Feldman Gallery + Project Space will present *Between my head and my hands, there is always the face of death*, curated by Kristan Kennedy. Featuring the work of Amy Bessone, Grant Barnhart, Kaye Donachie, Merlin James, Tala Madani, Elena Pankova, Norbert Schwontkowski, the exhibit offers a look at contemporary trends in figurative painting.

To be of the body is to be of flesh and bone, but what is it to be a representation or a stand-in for the body?

Between my head and my hands, there is always the face of death gathers together work in which the body is a painting, a shell, a gesture, a cartoon, a mask. Less portrait and more portrayal, the works included run from the highly sexualized and political to the austere and academic. When taken together, the work represents the kind of pictorial freedom ushered in by post-modernism and, furthermore, the figure post-Picabia. Seven distinctly different painters render our human form with a reverence for the architecture and meaning of the body without using "live" models as their material. The artists mine imagery from film, art history, memory, kitsch, and pop culture. It is here—between the energy of painting and the stillness of mechanization—that the work exists.

About Kristan Kennedy

Kristan Kennedy is an artist and curator who is currently the Visual Art Curator for the Portland Institute for Contemporary Art. Kennedy's curatorial initiatives focus on the creation of new work by working with emerging artists on large scale installations and helping foster their projects from concept to completion. Kennedy curates video, installation, music and new media projects presented at PICA's annual Time-Based Art Festival. She has organized exhibitions and commissioned projects by Matthew Day

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Jackson, Sara Greenberger-Rafferty, RED 76, Charles Atlas, Ruby Sky Stiler, Storm Tharp. Fawn Krieger, Kalup Linzy, Arnold Kemp, Peter Kreider, Guido van der Werve, Lizzie Fitch, Jacob Hartman and Brad Adkins among others. In addition she has presented the work of Marina Abramovic, Hans Weigand, Harrell Fletcher, Beth Campbell, Johanna Billing, Brody Condon, Antoine Catala, Carter, Jessica Jackson Hutchins, Ryan Trecartin and Mike Kelley.

In 2007 Kennedy was asked to develop a collection initiative for the CW Network. She selected curators from several regions to identify emerging artists from burgeoning cities across the United States. The resulting show *High Five: Emerging Art in America* was presented at the CW Network and resulted in the company purchasing pieces from each region. Kennedy has collaborated with Stephanie Snyder of Reed College on a publication documenting PICA's commission of Peter Kreider's work, which was released in the fall of 2009, she is currently working on a series of publications documenting PICA's commissioning and residency program from 2005-2010. She has acted as a juror and curator for several West Coast institutions, including *Un/Common* at the Pacific Northwest College of Art, *Exit* at the Portland State University, *Soft* at Tilt Gallery and *Grounded?* at Southern Exposure and Intersection for the Arts, San Francisco.

About Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (PICA)

Since 1995, PICA has built a citywide platform for the creation and discovery of contemporary art, through artist residencies and commissions, talks and workshops, and the annual Time-Based Art Festival.

For Publicity Images

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