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2008

AUGUST

August – The MFA class of 2010 in Craft Material Studies, Photography and Film, Sculpture + Extended Media, Painting + Printmaking and Kinetic Imaging move into their studios and get to work.

August 7 – The 2008 South Ossetia war begins, as Georgia and Russia launch a major offensive inside the separatist region of South Ossetia after days of border skirmishes between the two sides.

August 8–24 – The 2008 Summer Olympics take place in Beijing, China featuring the Bird’s Nest by Herzog and Demuron in collaboration with Ai Weiwei.

August 18 – Pervez Musharraf resigns as President of Pakistan, under impeachment pressure from the coalition government.

SEPTEMBER

September 7 – The US Government takes control of the two largest mortgage financing companies in the US, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

September 15 – Lehman Brothers files for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, catalyzing the global financial crisis.

OCTOBER

October 3 – U.S. President George W. Bush signs the revised Emergency Economic Stabilization Act into law, creating a 700 billion dollar Treasury fund to purchase failing bank assets.

October 7 – Russia agrees to provide Iceland with a four-billion-euro loan.

October 29 – Hungary’s currency and stock markets rise on the news that it will receive an international economic bailout package worth $25 billion from the IMF, European Union, and World Bank.

NOVEMBER

November 4 – Barack Obama is elected the 44th President of the United States, the first African-American President-elect.

November 6 – King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck of Bhutan is crowned, having ascended to the throne in 2006.

DECEMBER

December 1 – The Dow Jones Industrial Average drops 680 points, its fourth worst drop in its history, after the National Bureau of Economic Research declared on the same day that the United States economy officially entered a recession in December 2007.

December 11 – Bernard Madoff is arrested on one count of securities fraud by the FBI, leading to a 57 billion dollar Ponzi scheme.
2009

JANUARY
January 9 – A Labor Department report shows that the U.S. economy lost nearly 2 million jobs in the last four months of 2008.
January 16 – Richmond based Circuit City, the #2 electronics retailer in the U.S., announces the closing of all 567 of its U.S. stores and the termination of 34,000 jobs.
January 20 – Barack Obama is inaugurated as the 44th President of the United States.
January 26 – The Icelandic government and banking system collapse.

FEBRUARY
February 18 – President Obama orders the deployment of 17,000 additional US troops to Afghanistan.
February 1 – Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir is appointed as the new Prime Minister of Iceland, becoming the world’s first openly lesbian head of government.
February 7 – The deadliest bushfires in Australian history begin, killing 173, injuring hundreds and leaving 7,500 homeless. The fires come after Melbourne records the highest-ever temperature (46.4°C, 115°F) of any capital city in Australia.

MARCH
March 2 – Failing insurance giant AIG reports nearly $62 billion in losses during the fourth quarter of 2008, and the US government gives it $30 billion more in aid in a new bailout.
March 4 – The International Criminal Court (ICC) issues an arrest warrant for Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur. Al-Bashir is the first sitting head of state to be indicted by the ICC since its establishment in 2002.
March 9 – Exactly 17 months after its all time high of 14,164 on October 9, 2007, the Dow Jones Industrial Average bottoms out at 6,547.

APRIL–AUGUST
April 21 – UNESCO launches The World Digital Library.
VCUArts MFA students stage the first year candidacy shows in spaces along Main Street and Plant Zero.
June
June 25 – American entertainer, Michael Jackson, dies at age 50.
August
August 3 – Bolivia becomes the first South American country to declare the right of indigenous people to govern themselves.

SEPTEMBER
September 25 – At the G-20 Pittsburgh summit, world leaders announce that the G-20 will assume greater leverage over the global economy, replacing the role of the G-8, in an effort to prevent another global financial crisis like the one that started in 2007.
September 29 – An 8.3-magnitude earthquake triggers a tsunami near the Samoan Islands. Many communities and harbors in Samoa and American Samoa are destroyed.
September 30 – A 7.6-magnitude earthquake strikes just off the coast of Sumatra, killing more than 1,000 Indonesians.
October 9 – President Obama wins the Nobel Peace Prize.

OCTOBER–DECEMBER
October 28 – President Obama signs the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, extending federal hate crime law to include crimes motivated by a victim’s gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability.
November
November 1 – Small business lender CIT Group files for Chapter 11 bankruptcy which likely cancels its obligation to pay back the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) loan of $2.3 billion that it previously received from the U.S. government.
November 27 – Dubai requests a debt deferral following its extravagant development projects. The announcement causes global stock markets to drop.
2010

January – February

January 12 – A 7.0-magnitude earthquake occurs in Haiti, devastating the nation’s capital, Port-au-Prince.

January 15 – The longest annular solar eclipse of the 3rd millennium occurs.

February

February 3 – The sculpture L’Homme qui marche II by Alberto Giacometti sells in London for £65 million (US$103.7 million), setting a new world record for a work of art sold at auction.

February 27 – An 8.8-magnitude earthquake occurs in Chile, triggering a tsunami over the Pacific and killing 497. The earthquake is one of the largest in recorded history.

March – April

March 16 – The Kasubi Tombs, Uganda’s only cultural World Heritage Site, are destroyed by fire.

March 21 – The United States House of Representatives passes the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and its companion Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010.

April 27 – Standard & Poor’s downgrades Greece’s sovereign credit rating to junk four days after the activation of a €45-billion EU–IMF bailout, triggering the decline of stock markets worldwide and of the Euro’s value, and furthering a European sovereign debt crisis.

April 20 – An explosion occurs at the Deepwater Horizon oil rig, causing the rig to sink two days later and initiating a massive ongoing offshore oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, considered the largest in U.S. history.

May

May 4 – Nude, Green Leaves and Bust by Pablo Picasso sells in New York for US$106.5 million, setting another new world record for a work of art sold at auction.

May 6 – The “flash crash” occurs at the New York Stock Exchange, temporarily depletion 1,000 points off of the Dow Jones Industrial Average. It is the largest intra-day fall ever.

May 17 – The class of 2010 graduates from VCU’s School of the Arts MFA programs in Craft/Material studies, Painting + Printmaking, Sculpture + Extended Media, Photography + Film and Kinetic Imaging.

LIVE IN THE INCHOATE MOMENT

PART 2: MEET THE GRADS

Look carefully! These are not your usual suspects. They are, in fact, the 2010 MFA class from Virginia Commonwealth University’s School of the Arts. In most circumstances, that would be enough to set them apart, but in this case, there is more to their story.

When this group entered graduate school it was 2008, it was a heady moment that invited comparisons with the Roman Empire. The future was crisp and prosperous, and the arts had eked out a small foothold, if not gilded one, in a delirious fissure vanity and surface. By 2010, the world had been turned inside out. In two years the world changed at a more accelerated pace than at any other period in course of their lifetimes. A realization came that the coming decade might not be as effervescent, but that it afforded other, perhaps more meaningful glimmers of possibilities. The inchoate state of the world hinted at a reset, an interstitial moment between fertile and innovative periods. With equal parts contrarian introspection and optimism, these students worked with an assertion that art could be a tool in righting the course.

How does their work respond to the moment? It isn’t something you can see, if you could, what help would that be? It is there below the surface, tucked into faults and recesses, mingling in the core. Some of the things that might characterize this group are a tactile immediacy, skepticism of tidy conceptualism, and a sloppy embrace of anomalies and contradictions.

VCU’s School of the Arts is also a key persona, partner and mentor to this group. VCU has a fiercely independent ethic, and when the MFA students arrived in Richmond, they entered a legendary and scrappy program, located in a charming city with a past, steadfastly applying their collective prowess to artmaking. Richmond has a way of asserting itself in the minds of our grads, often finding that there is nowhere to go but deeper, into their work and into their moment. While the world around them invited apocalyptic scenarios, this group of students asserted a model in which idiosyncrasies and illogic can fuel constructive and relevant ideas.

Jack Risley
Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Director of Graduate Studies
untitled
dimensions vary, 2010
oil on canvas and paper
Untitled
dimensions vary, 2010
oil on canvas and paper
Nicole Andreoni  Painting & Printmaking

Untitled
22x30 in, 2010
Charcoal on paper

Untitled
6x7 in, 2009
Watercolor and graphite
Me and You
2010
intaglio
TIM BEARSE  SCULPTURE • EXTENDED MEDIA

Blizzard Skitch
2010
plaster, rubbed flowers, paint marker, resin, laminated wood, stainless steel, aluminum, cable, burlap, animal hide glue
Skitch
26x26x20 in, 2010
maple, aluminum, epoxy resin, burlap, hide glue, paint pen
Journeys Into the Unknown
dimensions vary, 2010
ink and graphite drawings, digital inkjet prints, display cases, CAD prints, animations on LCD screens, sound
Installation view

[aura]
The Experiment
90x42 in, 2010
197 Thoughtographs (Polaroid Film), Stage Lights, Glitter Paint, Performance Document
[AURA]
Landscape (Trinity Test Site)
36x36 in, 2009
Light Jet Print face mounted to plexi

[AURA]
Landscape (Mars Bluff)
36x36 in, 2010
Light Jet Print face mounted to plexi
Janet Bruhn  Painting & Printmaking

Beach Cliff Louisiana Sardines
6x7 ft, 2010
oil on canvas

Rose Bowling Ball
18x20 in, 2010
oil on canvas
Half Turkey 16x18 in, 2010 oil on canvas

Sock Puppet 14x18 in, 2010 oil on canvas

Lawn Chairs with Burn Barrel 5x6 ft, 2010 oil on canvas
Bottom Creek, Bent Mountain VA
15x8 ft, 2010
India ink on yupo paper
Detail from sketchbook
2010
ink and pen on paper
Snow-Land (Dreamfall Installation)
50x36 in, 2010
print on cotton broadcloth

Lapis III
(Dreamfall Installation)
11x9x7 in, 2010
glass
NICHOLAS DES COGNETS  SCULPTURE + EXTENDED MEDIA

Untitled
dimensions vary, 2010
digital print mounted on gatorboard, granite, graphite, steel

Untitled
44x60 in, 2010
digital print mounted on gatorboard
Gem with Tit
dimensions vary, 2010
brass, spray enamel,
graphite, bristol, PVC

Untitled
dimensions vary, 2010
mixed media
Shift
11.5 x 7.5 ft, 2010
Cotton, warp and weft dyed, warp-painted with textile pigments, then handwoven.

The Weaver’s Bench
11 x 16 ft, 2010
Cotton painted with textile pigments, then handwoven.
YOUNSEAL EUM  CRAFT/MATERIAL STUDIES

Installation view

The Space Between People
100.5x75.5x73 in, 2010
Silver, steel, cloth, carved form
Over the Rainbow
10x7x12 in, 2010
Silver, silver plating, cooper, paint, steel, motor, music box

Nabi
17.5x11x16.5 in, 2010
Glass, silver, cooper, steel, wood, motor
Life Odometer
2010
Wood, steel, and leather

Fragment #005436
2010
Wood, steel, paint, acrylic, and wax

Fragment #094721
2010
Wood, steel, paint, acrylic, wood glue, and wax

Fragment #049625
2010
Wood, steel, paint, acrylic, wood glue, and wax

Fragment #049626
2010
Wood, steel, paint, acrylic, and wax
Fragment #049626
2010
Wood, steel, paint, acrylic, and wax

Fragment #049625
2010
Wood, steel, paint, acrylic, and wax

Fragment #934721
2010
Wood, steel, paint, acrylic, wood glue, and wax
You’re Gonna Be Ok
2010
installation
Case Mod for Rory / Alexis
2010
mdf, epoxy, acrylic and enamel paint
Eternal September
2010
milled foam, mdf, epoxy, paper clay, acrylic and enamel paint

Sink
2010
mdf, epoxy, acrylic and enamel paint
Jon Marshall
30 x 40 in, 2010
acrylic and graphite on paper with painted frame

Chair (After Eames)
30 x 36 x 28 in, 2010
enamel on plywood, acrylic on paper, mounted on panel
Jon Marshall/John Marshall
30x11 in, 2010
eMBroidered patches in painted frames
Dream of Darkness
44x56 in, 2009
Quilted t-shirts and underwear belonging to the artist, craft felt

The Couch
36x73x50 in, 2010
Upholstered couch, digitally-printed romance novel and gay erotica pages on cotton

White Trash
Trade Boyfriend
Bathroom Installation
91x59 in, 2010
Romance novel pages, gay erotica pages and ads, Tyvek, china marker, color pencil, acrylic, vintage fabric
Journey into Love Boyfriend
56x37 in, 2009
Romance novel pages fused to canvas, coded with markers, highlighter, pens, color pencil

Mountain Lovesong Boyfriend
Stairwell installation view
56x42 in, 2010
Romance novel pages fused to canvas, coded with markers, highlighter, pens, color pencil, soiled pillowcase, vintage plaid, craft felt
IAN MCMAHON  SCULPTURE + EXTENDED MEDIA

From the Ground Up

16x6x6.5 ft wall 5x19 ft x .25 in, 2010
plaster(FGr-95), wood
Ali Miharbi, Kinetic Imaging

Bites
Dimensions vary, 2010
Custom audio mixer, headphones, computer, monitor and custom software
Wheel Torture
dimensions vary, 2009
bicycle wheel, toy monkey, electric motor, computer, custom hardware, custom software
Kristen Reo

Painting & Printmaking

Subtractive Stack
150x16x14 in, 2010
glycerin soap, colorant and concrete

Plastic Meets
12x8 in, 2010
oil on shellacked paper
Cold Cuts

dimensions vary, 2010
found polyethylene bags and tape
Yi Sheng  Painting & Printmaking

Orangina Ocarina
5x5x48 in, 2010
Orangina bottles, drinking straws, rubber bands, steel, rubber
and live performance with 15 Ocarinas
She Walks to a Movie, Using a Torch of Sunflowers to Light Her Way
24x36 in, 2010
Lambda Print

Hikaru Dorodango
(Mud Dumplings)
Each ball 5 in diameter
2010
mud collected from various walks in Richmond, Virginia, water
1860-1861

10 ft x 4 ft, 2010
soil, plywood, water, epoxy, polyethylene plastic, plexiglass, steel, flash light

RGB Hunter Gatherer

10.5 ft x 3.5 ft, 2010
steel, polyurethane foam, epoxy, polyurethane plastic, plexi glass, acrylic paint, silver leaf, soil
On the Quality of Being Honeyed
8x3x2.1 ft, 2010
plexiglass, polyurethane plastic, acrylic paint, video projection 9 minute loop, cardboard box
HIROMI TAKIZAWA  CRAFT/MATERIAL STUDIES

Parallel Lives / Bon Voyage to the Pacific Ocean
12x4.3x5 ft, 2010
Glass, salt, wood, plastic
Birthmark You Have it on Your Left Butt and I Have it on my Right Butt

2010
Glass, mirror, wood

One Thousand Holes

16x8.3x1 ft, 2009
Glass, metal
SARAH TURNER  CRAFT/MATERIAL STUDIES

Invert
dimensions vary, 2010
ceramic, mixed media
Treeless
33 x 33 in, 2010
oil on canvas

Installation view
Sign
96x96 in, 2010
oil on canvas

Slopes
96x96 in, 2010
oil on canvas
Untilted (for Grace...Gratis, for free)  
(foreground)  
12x20 in, 2010  
color lithograph on paperboard

An Awesome  
(background)  
2 min 12 sec loop, 2010  
HD Video

Grace... Gratis, for Free  
3 min 33 sec loop, 2010  
HD Video
Even the Lemon
2 min loop, 2009
super 8 transferred to video

16x16 in, 2010
digital print
SPECIAL THANKS TO PHOTOGRAPHER TERRY BROWN
DESIGNED BY ANNE JORDAN, HYPOTHESIS DESIGN AND CASSANDRA ELLISON

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