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1708 Gallery Congratulates the 3rd Annual InLight Richmond Award Recipients!

Over 6,500 visitors filled the streets of Shockoe Slip to experience 1708 Gallery's 3rd Annual InLight Richmond on October 22nd. The Community Lantern Parade set the tone for an inspiring night featuring hundreds of beautiful, glowing handmade lanterns created by participants of all ages. Models presented illuminating original "wearable art" designs as they processed across the stage for the Wearable Art Fashion Show. Light-inspired art installations seemed to emerge from every corner, wall, street, alley, nook and cranny in a two-block radius. InLight Richmond co-chair, Allison Andrews says of the success of the event, "Art has the power to obliterate the boundaries that separate individuals from one another - InLight Richmond is very effective at this, evidenced by the volume, diversity and level of delight of the audience members."

The 37 art installations presented were selected by guest juror, Amanda McDonald Crowley, the Executive Director of Eyebeam in New York who was impressed by the "artists' engagement with the Shockoe Slip district as a location and for their dynamic approach to working in a public space and engaging with the architecture of the location." The evening culminated in an awards ceremony where artists received recognition for Best in Show, Best in Green and People's Choice. 1708 Gallery would like to congratulate the following award recipients:

BEST IN SHOW AWARD, selected by Juror Amanda McDonald Crowley



Michael Zick Doherty, David Bernstein and Ian Collings
featuring the Starr Foster Dance Project
(In)Visible, 2010, Performance/Installation

(In)Visible is an interactive performance that uses light as a way of challenging our perception of the body in space. It questions how the phenomenology of space, affected by light and conversely the absence of light, can alter our experience of a dance. Participants enter a pitch dark room and can only perceive the movement using their other four senses. From the outside a screen displays what is going on inside the room through a live feed infrared camera. Thus,

the screen mediates the perception between two worlds — One that is visible but filtered, and the other, completely absent of visible light. The dancers become a vehicle for confronting the viewer with the body removed; one that becomes compressed to two dimensions, only to be seen through either the screen or in darkness.

Crowley awarded Michael Zick Doherty, David Bernstein and Ian Collings with Best in Show for, "their adventurous interpretation of light as a medium and for their capacity to rethink public performance by dynamically engaging the audience and exploring internal and external space in an intriguing way. By situating the audience and the performers in quite a vulnerable space - literally 'in the dark' - while simultaneously projecting this vulnerability onto the street was courageous. The dancers' capacity to explore and indeed exploit the space was thoughtful: a challenging and inspired way to engage street level passer-bys."

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BEST IN GREEN AWARD, selected by Michael Pellis, AIA, LEED



Jeff Schmuki

Incubator NX-1993167 with PNSP, 2010, Repurposed commercial products, food, plants, performance

Jeff Schmuki's installation serves as a lesson in eco-friendly gardening, enlightening the public of the consequences of inefficient and excessive consumption. He uses portable hydroponic garden systems that charge during the day via solar panels, storing the energy and using it to illuminate at night, extending the photosynthesis process. Inspired by the devastation and personal loss caused by Hurricane Katrina and the months following the storm, Schmuki's

gardens lack have soil as a way to represent the loss of one's home and the resulting nomadic lifestyle. Relatedly, they are fashioned to mutate in response to new situations and ever-changing environments.

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD, selected by the audience



The Wave Coalition: Emily Herr, Kelley Lowe, Ellie Doughty, Jonathan Tune and Ha Tran

Analog Audience, 2010, Wood, wire, paper, plexiglass, assorted electronic equipment

Analog Audience is a collaborative, interactive sculpture that incorporates two parts: a photosensitive Plexiglas control board, and a responsive light sculpture. As viewers' hands block light on the control board, the light emitting from the sculpture is enhanced. Created by a group of emerging artists known as "The Wave Coalition," *Analog Audience* is based on a concept rooted in the positive

result of human collaboration, represented by the emission of light and a concerted effort to produce a greater effect than any individual could create alone. The artists, Emily Herr, Ellie Doughty, Kelley Lowe, Jonathan Tune and Ha Tran— all currently students at Virginia Commonwealth University— integrate their various artistic skills and disciplines to create interactive experiences.

WEARABLE ART AWARD RECIPIENTS

selected by a panel of judges including Heidi Story, Anne Hughes, Paul Tribble, Elizabeth Frazier and Libby Sykes

THEO YOUNG BEST IN SHOW AWARD, given in memory of Theo Young, former chair of the VCU Fashion Design Department: Emily Mitchell and Taylor Todd, *Untitled*

RUNNER UP: Paulette Pullen, *Light Cage*

HONORABLE MENTION: Alli Moore, *Light of the Party*

From its conception, InLight Richmond was designed to move from one year to the next as a way to bring the audience to different parts of Richmond. The effects on Shockoe Slip speak for themselves. "I've spoken to restaurant owners who saw increased sales of 20% up to 150% over their normal Friday night sales," said Lucy Meade, 1708 Gallery's Treasurer and Co-Chair of InLight Richmond. "David Campbell of The Tobacco Company remarked that it was crazy busy like New Years Eve and Tom Leppert of Sam Millers said it was the busiest Friday night they had had in years. I think it is fair to say that InLight Richmond 2010 was a resounding artistic and economic success."

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SPECIAL THANKS

InLight Richmond would not be possible without the support of the participating artists, many volunteers, generous sponsors and the welcoming property owners and restaurants of Shockoe Slip. InLight Richmond is designed to increase accessibility to contemporary art, inspire and engage the community with public art and provide artists with the opportunity to impact the urban environment. A huge THANK YOU goes out to all who helped 1708 Gallery make InLight a success.

About 1708 Gallery:

InLight Richmond is organized by 1708 Gallery, a non-profit arts organization committed to presenting exceptional new art. 1708 Gallery is committed to providing opportunities for artistic innovation for emerging and established artists and to expanding the understanding and appreciation of new art for the public.

IMAGE CREDITS: Page 1: *(In)Visible* by Michael Zick Doherty, David Bernstein and Ian Collings; Page 2: *Incubator NX-1993167 with PNSP* by Jeff Schmuki, *Analog Audience* by The Wave Coalition; all images courtesy of www.skynoirphotography.com.

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