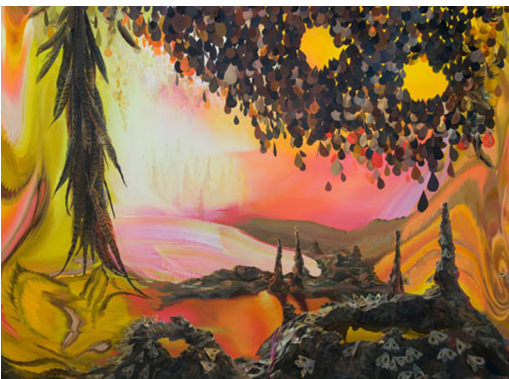
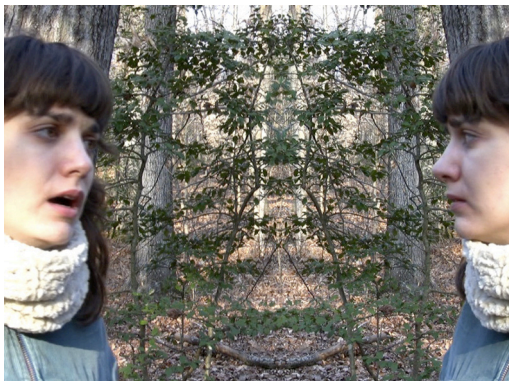


MAY 8, 2009
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEED2009: **A Juried Biennial**

EXHIBITION DATES: June 5 - July 11
EXHIBITION OPENING: June 5th, 7 PM
JUROR'S TALK: June 5th, 6:30 PM



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Richmond, VA - 1708 Gallery is pleased to announce the opening of FEED, a national juried biennial organized by 1708 Gallery on Friday, June 5, 2009. A juror's talk will begin at 6:30pm followed by a public reception.

FEED features five artists selected out of 311 submissions from 38 states by jurors Ashley Kistler, Director of the Anderson Gallery at VCU, and Mark Sloan, Director of the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art at the College of Charleston, SC. This juried biennial is designed to recognize and highlight artists that are, right now, creating works of art that are new and innovative. The exhibition is intended to provide these artists with well deserved exposure while serving as a springboard for their artistic careers. The five finalists include installation artist Jarod Charzewski of Charleston, SC; video artist Cari Freno of Richmond, VA; painter Christine Gray of Richmond, VA; multi-media artist Bang Geul Han of Royal Oak, MI; and photographer Ross Sawyers of Riverside, CA. Each of the five artists will exhibit multiple works and receive a \$1000 honorarium.

Asked about the jurying experience, Mark Sloan commented that the submissions included "very few artists pursuing what might be called "pure" disciplines of painting, drawing, sculpture, photography, etc. Almost all of the entrants to FEED employed some sort of hybridization of the conventions of traditional media. One of the things that struck me most was that the field of contemporary art seems to be in a state of transition away from traditional art media and strategies."

JURORS

Ashley Kistler is the Director of the Anderson Gallery at Virginia Commonwealth University and previously served as Curator at the Visual Arts Center of Richmond and Associate Curator at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. Over the past twenty years, she has curated dozens of exhibitions presenting the work of regional, national, and international artists including Whitfield Lovell, Bill Viola, and Alfredo Jaar. She has also organized a wide array of special programs and projects including artists' residencies, symposia, film/video series, and performing arts events. She is the recipient of the 2006 Arts Innovator Award, Theresa Pollak Prizes for Excellence in the Arts.

Director and Senior Curator of the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art at the College of Charleston since 1994, **Mark Sloan** received his BA in Interdisciplinary Studies from the University of Richmond and a Master of Fine Arts degree from Virginia Commonwealth University. In his twenty-five year career he has organized hundreds of exhibitions, ranging from contemporary Japanese installation art to 19th Century Baluchi tribal weavings. Several of his exhibitions have traveled to institutions such as the High Museum in Atlanta, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco, the New Orleans Museum of Art, Presentation House in Vancouver, and the American Visionary Art Museum in Baltimore.

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ARTIST BIOS



Jarod Charzewski holds a BFA from the University of Manitoba (1996) and an MFA from the University of Minnesota (2005). He has received artist grants from several US and Canadian arts organizations including the Manitoba Arts Council and the Canada Council for the Arts and in 2007 received a Puffin Award for the environmental content of his work. He has worked as a board member for two non profit arts centers. Ace Art Inc. in Canada and currently serves as the board president of Redux Contemporary Art Center in Charleston SC. He has taught sculpture in his home town of Winnipeg Canada and Minneapolis/St Paul MN and currently he holds the position of Assistant Professor at the College of Charleston also in Charleston, South Carolina.

Cari Freno is a recent MFA graduate of the Crafts/Material Studies Department at Virginia Commonwealth University. She is an artist working primarily at self-documentation in which she utilizes video and natural landscape. Cari was raised in Cleveland, Ohio and spent time in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania attaining her BFA as well as teaching elementary school. She currently lives and works in Richmond, Virginia.



Christine Gray received a BFA from The University of Texas at Austin and an MFA from The University of California Santa Barbara. She has had recent solo shows in Austin at Okay Mountain in 2007 and in Washington D.C. at Project 4 Gallery in 2008. Christine's upcoming exhibitions include a two person show at Project 4 in Washington D.C. this July and a solo exhibition at RARE gallery in New York this fall. Christine was recently awarded residencies at Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, 7 Below, and the Jentel Foundation which she will attend throughout 2009 and 2010. Christine Gray currently lives in Richmond where she has been teaching at VCU since 2007.

IMAGE CREDITS: from top to bottom: *Scarp*, Jarod Charzewski; *Little Wanton: The Pocahontas State Park series*, Cari Freno; *Ever and Ever Eyes*, Christine Gray; *3 Things that Mom Doesn't Have to Know*, Bang Geul Han; *Untitled (Blue Sky 6)*, Ross Sawyers

Born and raised in Seoul, Korea, **Bang Geul Han** has been based in the US since 2002 and currently lives and works in Detroit, MI. She is the recipient of a MacDowell Fellowship in 2009 and a participant in the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture residency program in 2007. Han received her MFA from Alfred University in Electronic Integrated Arts and her BFA in Painting from Seoul National University. Han has shown work nationally and internationally in galleries and museums including Millennium Art, Beijing; Vox Populi, Philadelphia; Florence Lynch, New York; and Cheekwood Museum of Art, Nashville.

Ross Sawyers received his B.F.A. from the Kansas City Art Institute and his M.F.A. from the University of Washington. He was selected for the 2006 Center on Contemporary Art Annual, completed a solo exhibition at Platform Gallery in Seattle in July '07 and another solo exhibition at Gallery 4Culture in Seattle in January '08. Sawyers was also chosen to participate in the "9th Northwest Biennial" at the Tacoma Art Museum in 2009. A solo exhibition of recent work will be presented at Platform Gallery in Seattle in October of 2009. Ross Sawyers currently resides in Riverside California where he teaches photography at the University of California, Riverside.

ABOUT THE GALLERY

1708 Gallery is one of the oldest artist-run non-profit organizations in the country. By showing art that questions, challenges and redefines the social and aesthetic boundaries of the visual arts, 1708 offers an opportunity for the public to investigate, discover and to be inspired by the most recent developments in contemporary art.

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