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CONSTRUCTS XI

A 1708 Gallery Satellite Exhibition at the Linden Row Inn
January 27 - April 22, 2012



Constructs XI, 1708 Gallery's latest satellite exhibition at Richmond's historic Linden Row Inn, features works by Sally Bowring, Don Crow, Reni Gower, Chris Gregson, Stephen Griffin, Ray Kass, Javier Tapia and Dan Treado. Join us for the opening reception on Friday, February 3rd from 5 to 9 p.m. The proceeds from all art sales benefit the artist and the exhibition programs of 1708 Gallery. **Constructs XI** will be on view through April 22, 2012.

Constructs is an ongoing ever changing exhibition that features artists from Virginia. Working in abstraction, the artists create singular works of art through the combination of many elements. While some echo traditional easel painting, others are multi-part assemblages that extend painting's reach into the realm of installation. With comparable sensibilities toward color, shape, and gesture, these artists explore painting through the inventive use of collage, innovative construction techniques, or conceptually layered frameworks.

As a living, breathing exhibition, each installation is a "construct" in itself that reflects the evolving nature of the creative process. By featuring new works at each venue the exhibition is continually reinvented. Since 2005, the exhibition has traveled to eleven venues. *Constructs* was co-organized by Sally Bowring, Chris Gregson, and Reni Gower.

Exhibiting Artists:

Sally Bowring, a native New Yorker now living in Richmond, VA, draws inspiration for her work from her love for textiles, Matisse, Joan Snyder's paintings, Rauschenberg's invocations, Brice Marden's elegance, Agnes Martin's brevity and Louis Armstrong's *En Vie en Rose*. Her work is about, among other things, surprising herself and "about not knowing in the beginning and discovering during the process".

Over the years, **Don Crow** has worked in large-scale oil on canvas, painted paper collage, and watercolor drawings, all influenced by his training in abstract expressionism. More recently, Crow has included new media in his work: the digital





processes of photography, abstract digitally rendered prints, and three-dimensional objects within his exhibition design. His fragile paper collages at one end of the spectrum and his large digital prints at the other end draw attention to objects as obvious constructions and as invisible processes.

A professor in VCU's Painting and Printmaking Department, **Reni Gower's** pieces in **Constructs XI** are part of an ongoing series of works on paper. She "blend[s] a fluid improvisational painting approach with a repetitively structured and analytical one to create complex images that counter visual skimming."

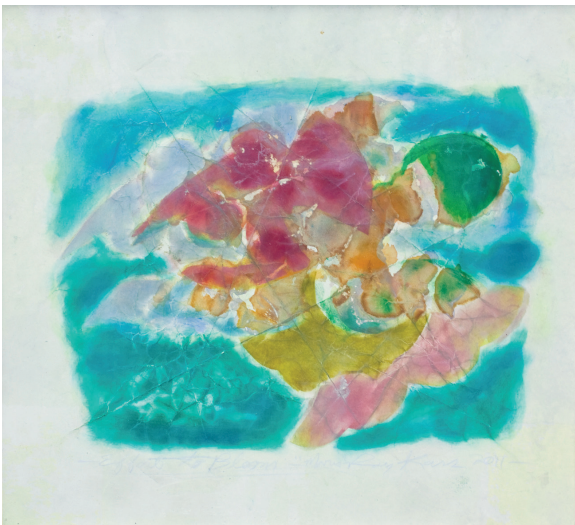
Chris Gregson's paintings reference natural and manmade forms with merging, overlapping and intersecting shapes. Gregson favors an approach familiar in earlier art historical styles. "All decisions are made intuitively from the mark placements, color selections and the arrangement of the visual components."



Stephen Griffin, recipient of a 2011-2012 Professional Fellowship in painting from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, created the pieces in this exhibition during a recent residency at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts in Amherst, VA. His painting process is not unlike an archeological dig. He applies "multiple layers of paint which are eventually sanded and scraped to reveal previously forgotten colors and textures."

Ray Kass' recent paintings involve a practice of working with unique materials that mimics processes found in nature. He applies a transparent oil mixture that, as he explains, "is invisible until I dust it with powder pigments that I rub on the surface and that allows the marks that I have made to appear."

Peruvian born **Javier Tapia** has been experimenting with watercolor for over twelve years. Through his process of working within the medium and taking it to places he has not seen before he has discovered that, in doing so, he has "not made 'a choice' to choose an 'abstract style', but instead, abstraction and expression have chosen [him]."



Employing unique tools, such as squeegees and scrapers, **Dan Treado** manipulates solvent and oil paint into luminous, richly surfaced paintings. His paintings are process works that borrow from sources such as film and photography, physics and biology textbooks, and electron microscope images as he explores the relationship between science and art.

1708 Gallery organizes exhibitions for the Linden Row Inn, located at 100 East Franklin Street in downtown Richmond. The work is displayed in their lobby, parlor, dining room and



IMAGE CREDITS: (top to bottom) **PAGE 1:** Sally Bowring, *Inside/Outside*, 2011, courtesy of Reynolds Gallery; Reni Gower, *Pivot.10*, 2010; **PAGE 2:** Chris Gregson, *Constructs (G 116)*, 2011, courtesy of Reynolds Gallery; Stephen Griffin, *VCCA Strata #5*, 2011, courtesy of Glave Kocen Gallery; Ray Kass, *Effort to Bloom*, 2011, courtesy of Reynolds Gallery; **PAGE 3:** Dan Treado, *In the Key of Shut Your Mouth*, 2010, courtesy of Addison/Ripley Fine Art

courtyard for guests and the public to enjoy. Part of the mission of our curatorial work for this venue is to show contemporary art that complements and creates a bridge with the historic interior and unique architecture. Linden Row Inn participates in the First Fridays Art Walk with a reception the first Friday of every month from 5 to 9 p.m. Visit their website www.lindenrowinn.com for more information.

1708 Gallery is 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.

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