Centennial Alumni Exhibition II: Nexts
January 11 – February 11, 2011
Kent State University
School of Art Gallery
As Kent State University launches its second 100 years, its School of Art celebrates more than eight decades of educating students in the visual arts. Our majors have gone on to work as artists, designers, educators, researchers, and leaders in the visual arts, many in multiple roles over the course of their lives. Our classes and programs have also introduced thousands of other KSU students to the joys and insights of the practices, history and ideas in the visual arts. These individuals have joined the professionals in a lively, engaged arts community in northeastern Ohio and beyond.

This catalogue accompanies the second of two exhibitions organized to highlight creative work by artists who earned their degrees from the 1960’s to the present (capturing the work of earlier graduates remains a task to be addressed). NEXTS (January-February, 2011), opens KSU’s second hundred years. It has been delightful to witness the range and quality of work submitted for consideration, making heroically difficult the task of our juror, artist-critic Dan Tranberg, who found noteworthy trends within the hundreds of submissions. This is the school’s first attempt at contacting and “collecting” its thousands of alumni, and we hope that those whom we missed or could not include yet will take this opportunity to reconnect, update us on what you’ve been doing, and keep in touch. The art on view now, as well as that which is not in these shows but is hinted at via the images on the alumni pages of the school website, reveals a deeper sense of our past, provides an occasion for celebration today, and, we hope, inspires generations for the future.

My particular thanks to Dan Tranberg, to Anderson Turner (Director of Galleries for the School) and his skilled and gracious staff, and to the staff of the school of art and the college of the arts (Tonia Wales, Lisa Held, Beth Renicker, Shawn Gordon, Effie Tsengas, Pam Hutson), who worked in so many ways in this inaugural effort to gather in and celebrate our alumni. In a school of art within a public institution of higher education, productive collaboration is a vital and valued achievement that benefits many. In the context of this exhibition, it is appropriate to offer thanks to these colleagues, to the emeritus and present faculty members who contributed so much to the formation of these artists, and to our alumni and other friends for reminding us again, through their work, of the power of art to delight, provoke, and sustain.

Christine Havice, Ph D
Director, School of Art
Kent State University
As with most large group shows, the KSU Centennial Alumni Exhibition began with a process of sorting. With submissions from an incredibly diverse assortment of nearly 200 artists who graduated over the course of 50 years, the early stage of the process was daunting. Thanks to the KSU Galleries staff, an online database was formed and what first appeared as an impossible task became at least conceivable.

Given the enormous range of submissions—from jewelry, pottery, glass and sculpture to paintings, photographs and graphic design—the only way to tie things together, in my mind, was to choose only the absolute best work available. If a theme exists at all here, it is excellence in each artist's chosen medium and format. Of course, this judgment is subjective, in the final round of cuts, I relied on pure gut instinct.

In the end, my hope is that the works here provide a compelling glimpse at the extraordinary accomplishment of Kent State University's School of Art and its legacy as an institution that has nurtured generations of intelligent, provocative, and highly accomplished artists.

Dan Tranberg
Curator Centennial Alumni Shows I & II
Extrack 1 and 2, 2009
Linen, silk weaving

Laurie Addis
MFA, Textiles 2006
Clare Murray Adams
BFA, Fiber Art 1993
Between a Rock and a Hard Place, 2010
Shelf with rocks and bricks, branch with zipper and bones
Ryan Burdzinski
BFA, Painting
2006

Lifter, 2009
Oil on canvas
Double Impact, 2005
Two-minute digital video loop

Michael Dee
MFA, Sculpture
2000
Devil Hide, 2008
Wool. Woven, supplementary weft.

Bill Lorton
BFA, Textiles 2006
Jason Lee
BFA, Sculpture
1993

Imagined Landscape, 2010
Lexan, MDF, Duratrans ink jet film, foundry wax, flocking, florescent lights
Liliane Luneau
Painting 1991

#305, 2009
Oil on mylar
BA, Art History 1988, BFA, Painting 1989; MFA
Lorri Ott
MFA, Painting
2004

off-cut, 2010
Resin, pigment, linen
(left)  
Water (from Stagger Lee Group), 2010  
Ink, acrylic, enamel and oil on paper mounted to plywood

(right)  
Staggerlee (from Stagger Lee Group), 2010  
Ink, acrylic, enamel and oil on paper mounted to plywood

Todd Schroeder  
MFA, Painting/Sculpture  
2000-2002
WangLing Chou Stokes
MFA
Ceramics

Easy-Hold Jar, 2010
High fire porcelain
MFA, Ceramics 2007
Mecca Droid Continuing Frequent Formations, 2010  
Pen and ink on bristol board  

Hugh Jeffrey Russell  
BFA, Sculpture 1992
Michelle Pajak-Reynolds
BFA, Jewelry/Metals
2001

Drawing Series: Morning Meditation #20, 2009
22k gold leaf, nylon, acrylic
Curve Set 19, 2010
Digital photo print, custom software

Jayce Renner
BFA, Sculpture
1999
Eric Wixon  
BFA, Drawing  
2001

Eliminate Avarice to Expose Awareness, 2010  
Acrylic, spray paint, and drawing materials on canvas
Apiculture, Precious, 2008
925, 18k, 14k, copper, enamel, citrines, aluminum, brass

Apiculture, Playful, 2008
Nickel, nu gold, copper, aluminum, brass, plexi, plastic beads

Kristi Kloss
BFA, Jewelry/Metals 1997
Laila Voss
MFA, Sculpture
1992

Future Past Re-formed, 2009-2011
Digital video
Sweat Equity II, 2009
Ceramic, glaze, under glaze, gold over glaze, and wax

Steven Earl Weber
BFA, Ceramics/Glass
1998
Bruce Edwards
BFA, Sculpture
1991

Diptich #1, 2010
Serigraph on Coventry Rag
Even cowmen get the blues, 2009
Mixed media on vellum

Dylan Collins
MFA, Sculpture
2003
Tom Bartel
BFA, Ceramics
1993

Fertility Figure
(things that get you up/things that get you down), 2008/09
Ceramic, earth
Laocoon, 2010
Earthenware with ceramic decal

David JP Hooker
MFA, Ceramics
1996
Robin Haller  
MFA, Textiles 2005  
In Search of Our Best Self (Labyrinth of Recovery 2), 2010  
Hand-woven on TC-1 Jacquard Loom
Nightrain, 2010
Acrylic on black canvas

Timothy Callaghan
MFA, Painting 2005
Katie Schutte
BFA, Jewelry/Metals 2006

Crocheted Argentium Necklace, 2010
Crocheted argentium silver wire, sterling silver chain
Untitled, 2009
Silk and dyes
Courtesy of William Busta Gallery

Hildur Jonsson
BFA, Textiles 1991
MFA, Textiles 1995
Benjamin Johnson  
BFA, Glass 2005  
Torrent Host, 2009  
Blown glass
Avocado, 2005
Felted Falkland wool

Thomas Horst
BA, Art Education 1995
MA, Crafts 2003
Neil MacDonald
MFA, Painting
2001

Fall of the Rebel Angels (after Bruegel), 2010
Courtesy of Shaheen Modern & Contemporary Art, Oil on canvas
Mixed signage and print materials

Rachel Downey

BFA, Visual Communication Design

Cloudscape #3, 2010
Sterling silver, altered blue foam rubber
Keaton Wynn
MFA, Ceramics
1995
Still Life,
from installation Transubstantiation, 2010
Wheel-thrown porcelain, cone 04, unglazed
Cloudscape #7, 2010
Oxidized sterling silver, altered grey foam rubber

Cloudscape #3, 2010
Sterling silver, altered blue foam rubber

Susan Skoczen
BFA, Jewelry/Metals 1999
Tara Nahabetian
MFA, Jewelry/Metals 1997

Veiled Growth 4, 2010
Rubber
1163, 2010
Cotton fabric

Untitled, 2010
Porcelain

Lily Liu
MFA, Ceramics
2005
Royden Watson
MFA, Painting
2000

Tomato, 2009
Oil on panel