

Spectacles of Intimacy

Megan Dickie

Jamie Drouin

Suzanne L. Mir

d. bradley muir

Lance Olsen

Ingrid Mary Percy

Lora Carroll, Curator

Exhibition Summary:

Spectacles of Intimacy explores the role of artist as social spectator: one who witnesses intimate spaces and moments and transports them into the public sphere for debate and dialogue. This exhibition explores the power of the artistic gaze and unravels the concept of spectacle: considering its critical inception in Guy Debord's seminal work *Society of the Spectacle* and redefining it in a contemporary context.

Megan Dickie's piece *The Assistants* is a series of intimate sculptures cast from the arms of artists. Each piece is designed to hold the tools of the trade (for a painter, draftsman and sculptor) and was created to assist in the art making process. Aside from the practical uses of these sculptures, the materials that Dickie chooses to work with (leather and wax) reference other subversive uses: exploring elements of control, bondage, sexuality, sensuality and touch.

Suzanne L. Mir's *Perdido* is comprised of a series of painterly photographs printed onto canvas. Mir responds to a visit that she made to an island in Mexico called Isla de las Munecas (Island of the Dolls). This island was inhabited by one man, Don Julian, for 50 years and became a living shrine to the memory of a drowned child. Dolls hang from every tree, bush and building on the island. As the fame of the shrine spread, people from all over the world sent their own dolls to be displayed: to memorialize their own lost children. Mir's images engage with communal rituals of mourning as well as reference her own internal struggles with mortality, aging and death.

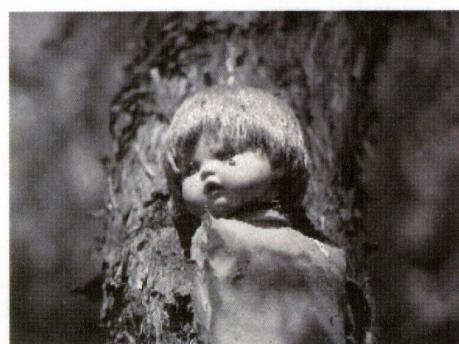
d. bradley muir's large scale cibachrome photographs challenge accepted models of idealized private and domestic space: literally relocating the private to the public realm and returning the constructed space to the natural. muir questions the disproportionate value that Western culture assigns consumerism and breaks down the aesthetic of ready made culture.

Lance Olsen & Jamie Drouin's multimedia installation *Next Stop* centers upon an overheard conversation on a bus. This private moment is appropriated by Olsen & Drouin and transformed through video and sound. In the gallery space, the viewer encounters an impromptu theatre. A dark narrow passageway ends with a small video monitor (the size of a deck of cards), which can only be seen by entering into the structure. Hidden speakers at ear level provide the audio. Olsen reenacts two women on a bus engaging in a seemingly nonsensical discussion. The back and forth of his speech is manic and unsettling. And the fact that it is a sole male figure playing the part of two elderly women, adds to the confusion. *Next Stop* addresses issues of personal space, privacy and the fine line which separates the artistic from the everyday.

Ingrid Mary Percy's drawings engages with the medicalization of the body: sickness and disease, bacteria and viruses, drugs and vaccines. Percy creates imaginary worlds based on the interior spaces of the body. Her work, although seemingly playful and whimsical, ultimately expose the fragility of human life and the insidious nature of disease.



Megan Dickie | *The Assistants*, 2005



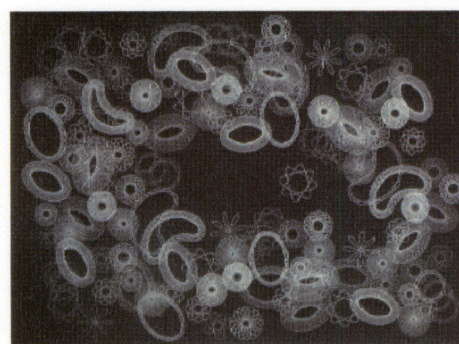
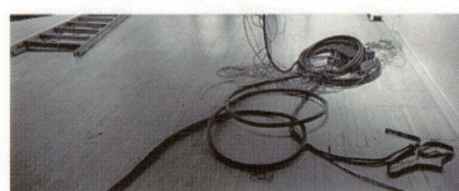
Suzanne L. Mir | *Perdido*, 2005



d. bradley muir | *Midnight Haze*, 2004



J Olsen & Drouin | *Next Stop*, installation view



Ingrid Mary Percy | *Untitled (Corona Varieta)*, 2004

Biographies:

MEGAN DICKIE

Megan Dickie relocated to Victoria in 2003 from the Prairies. She holds a BFA in Printmaking from the University of Calgary and an MFA in Sculpture from the University of Saskatchewan. Dickie currently teaches at the Vancouver Island School of Art, the Victoria College of Art, and the University of Victoria.

JAMIE DROUIN

Visual and multimedia artist Jamie Drouin has exhibited internationally with solo shows in Japan, Germany and Canada. Drouin's sound and video-based work has been presented at the prestigious Mutek Festival, Montreal and at the Montreal Museum of Contemporary Art, and his visual work has been featured in international publications such as Leica World and AVA Books.

SUZANNE L. MIR

Suzanne L. Mir works in a variety of media including painting, collage, sculpture, and photography. She has exhibited both nationally and internationally since 1987 and is an active member of the arts community in Victoria, BC, where she resides. Mir holds degrees from the California State University, the University of Victoria, and the Victoria College of Art.

D. BRADLEY MUIR

Born and raised in Vancouver, d. bradley muir attained his BFA (Honours) in Sculpture and Photography from Concordia University in Montreal. Returning to the West Coast, muir acquired his MFA from the University of Victoria in 2003. Since graduating, he has remained in Victoria and currently teaches at the Vancouver Island School of Art and Camosun College. muir is currently exhibiting his work across Canada and in the United States.

LANCE OLSEN

Visual and multimedia artist Lance Olsen holds a MA from the Camberwell School of Art, United Kingdom. Olsen has exhibited internationally since 1972: having showed his work in Italy, Poland, United Kingdom and in the United States. He has also exhibited his work regularly in both solo and group shows across Canada.

INGRID MARY PERCY

Ingrid Mary Percy studied Visual Art at the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design in Vancouver (BFA) and at the University of Victoria (MFA). Her work has been exhibited both nationally and internationally for ten years. Percy currently teaches Painting and Drawing in the Department of Visual Arts at the University of Victoria.

LORA CARROLL

Lora Carroll is an independent curator and consultant. Her most recent projects include *Trans[Form]*— an exhibition that will take place in Vancouver from June 10–20, 2007 as a part of the IUHPE World Conference. She also recently co-curated *Chiasma* with Glenn Alteen — a three-day international online performance exchange, which premiered at grunt gallery as a part of *LIVE: The Biennial of Performance Art*. Carroll has an MA in Contemporary Culture & Theory from the University of Lancaster, United Kingdom (1999).

Megan Dickie | *The Assistants*



Megan Dickie | *Drawing Assistant*, 2005



Megan Dickie | *The Assistants*, 2005

Suzanne Mir | *Perdito*



Suzanne L. Mir | *Perdito*, 2005



Suzanne L. Mir | *Perdito*, 2005

d. bradley muir

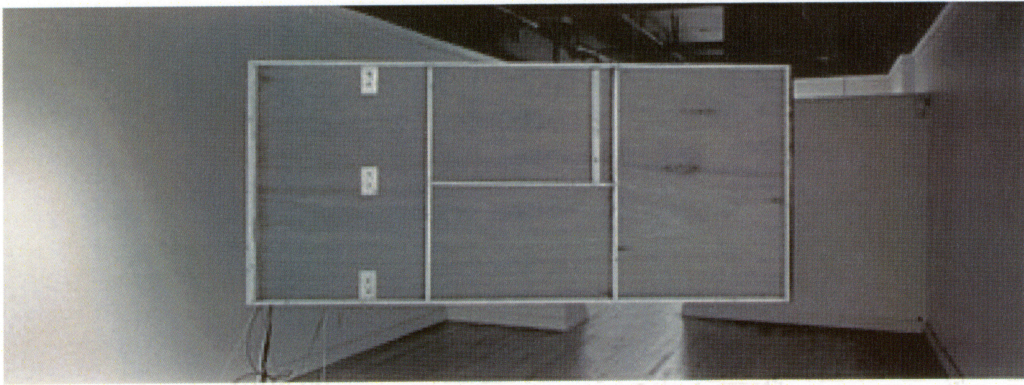


d. bradley muir | Midnight Haze, 2004

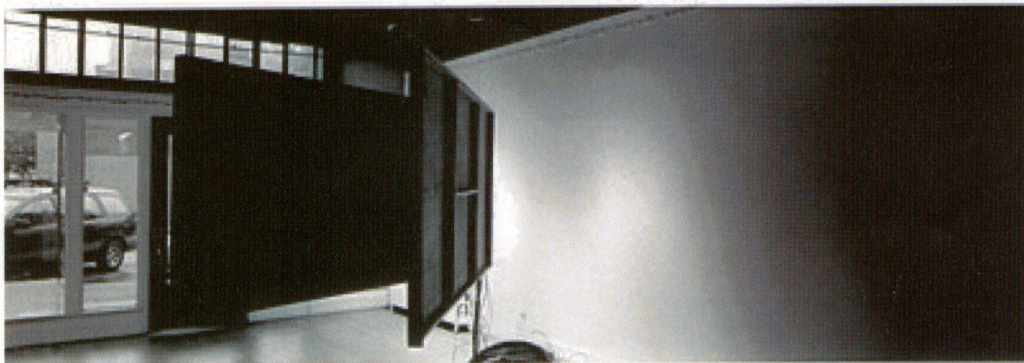


d. bradley muir | Hilltop (Odds and Ends), 2005

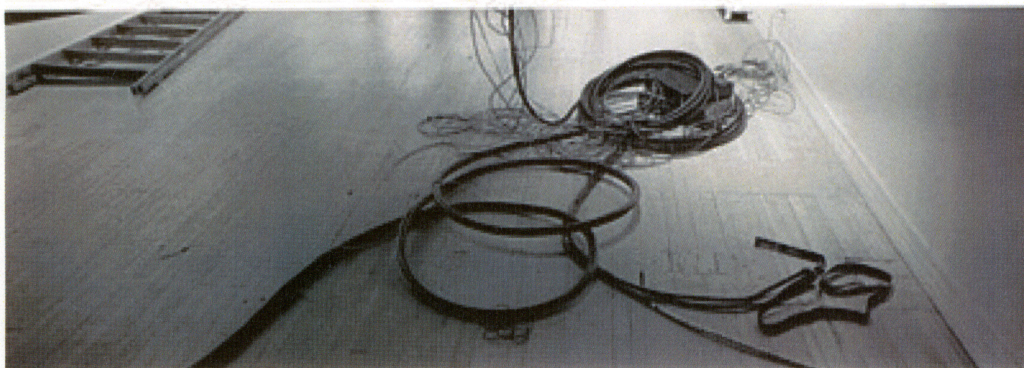
Lance Olsen & Jamie Drouin | *Next Stop*



Olsen & Drouin | *Next Stop*, installation view

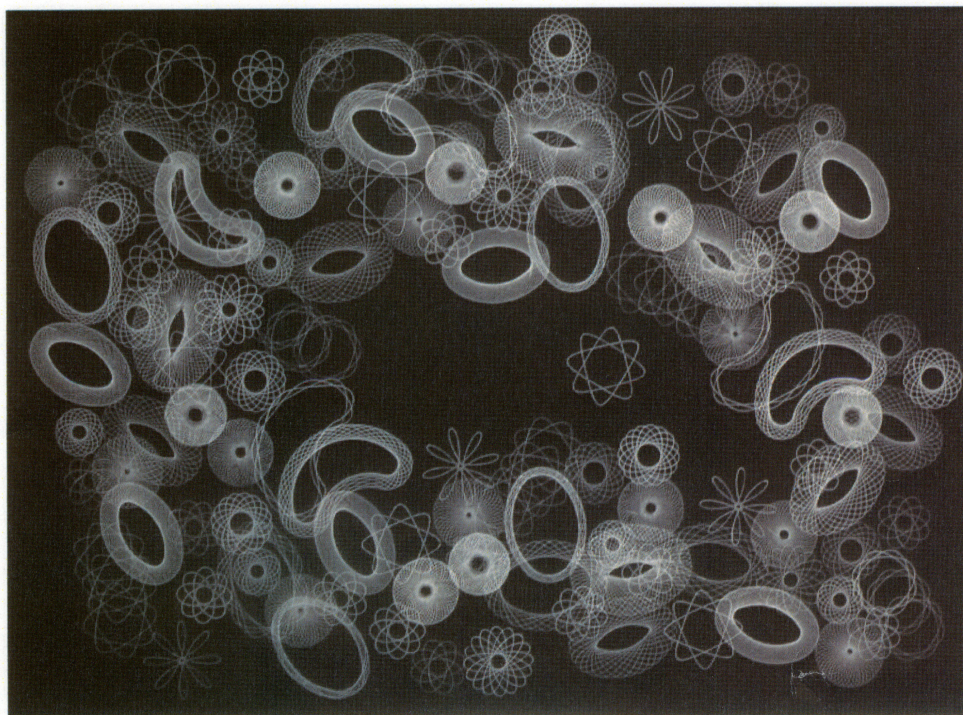


Olsen & Drouin | *Next Stop*, installation view



Olsen & Drouin | *Next Stop*, installation view

Ingrid Mary Percy | *Corona Varieta*



Ingrid Mary Percy | *Untitled (Corona Varieta)*, 2004