

# FORM+CONTENT GALLERY

For release April 2013

## Found Objects

### What

Artworks created from undisguised or modified found objects and mail art projects produced in collaboration by Jay Isenberg, Lynda Monick-Isenberg, Garth Rockcastle, and Karen Wirth.

### When

June 27 through August 3, 2013

Gallery hours: Thursday – Saturday, 12:00 – 6:00 pm and by appointment

Free and open to the public

### Opening Reception

Saturday, July 13 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm

Free and open to the public

### Where

Form+Content Gallery

Whitney Square Building

210 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Suite 104

Minneapolis, MN 55401

### Info

Form+Content Gallery, 612/436-1151

Howard Oransky, 651/592-1841

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*Imagine an eye which does not respond to the name of everything but which must know each object encountered in life through an adventure of perception.* – Stan Brackhage

### Description

(Minneapolis, MN) – Form+Content Gallery presents *Lost and Found*, an exhibition of artworks created from undisguised or modified found objects and a series of mail art projects produced in collaboration by Jay Isenberg, Lynda Monick-Isenberg, Garth Rockcastle, and Karen Wirth. Jay Isenberg curated the exhibition *Lost and Found*.

Each of the artists in *Lost and Found* begins the process of making art through an encounter with found objects. Lynda Monick-Isenberg engages in daily walks during which she finds and collects objects ignored or discarded by others. She sorts and arranges the objects in her studio and through the act of drawing finds new meaning in the cast-off relics. Garth Rockcastle is an architect who has specialized in the creative re-use of existing structures. His passion for collecting and revitalizing found materials also motivates him to produce surprising objects for the gallery. Karen Wirth is an artist who gives equal attention to objects and language and the meaning that arises out of their dynamic relationship. Isenberg, Monick-Isenberg, Rockcastle, and Wirth have also collaborated on a series of mail art projects derived from found objects. Taking turns, each participant altered the mail art pieces and then sent them to the next participant in the group. In this way, the found objects were altered in a series of found interventions, integrating process and product.

## Artist Statements

### Lynda Monick-Isenberg

Drawing is unlike other art forms. It is an immediate visual language that is the basis of communication. For me, drawing is simultaneously an analytical and emotional act, making ideas accessible in a gesture, creating understanding through close observation and reinvention, and connecting the emotional and intellectual through representation and metaphor. It is an act, an emotional reaction, and a system that connects looking and thinking.

I begin with collections of found objects that I 'glean' while on daily walks, things that might be ignored or discarded by casual observers. Bringing them into the studio, I begin to sort and arrange by shape, size, form, color, texture, material, and through drawing, make a careful observation. As I consider and arrange these specimens, symbolic and metaphorical overtones emerge. My drawings employ both a visual language of representation as well as an intuitive understanding of the unconscious. Contemporary and historical events, mythology, and Torah provide the conceptual foundation and narrative.

### Garth Rockcastle

I think of myself as a collaborator of means, methods, and materials and with the people I admire. I am fortunate to have been given much, able to work hard, and to be able to see before most do. I am drawn to series and types, enjoy riddles and narratives, and prefer flexibility and dynamism to the monumental and iconic. I am most humbled by the shear magnitude of the macro and the profound intricacy of the micro. I believe, when we are at our best, we can only *simulate* the wonder of each.

### Karen Wirth

My work has long combined form and space, object and language, reading and deciphering. I am interested in a found object for both what it is and what it represents. It is a thing, but it can also be a letterform or a physical metaphor. I scavenge hunt for the odd yet perfect fit to compose phrases and similes. I write words with objects shaped as letters that relate to the meaning of the phrase. The 3D rebuses are a visual play of figure/ground relationships, with simultaneous reading of the object, the letter, and the phrase. The act of looking is very different than the act of reading, and these works invite the viewer to pay attention to both. In other work, visual similes begin with a random object or image. Objects are sequenced together to develop a theme. The items visually and conceptually propel from one to the next, serving as physical metaphors for that theme. There is a slight change in perception, the meaning of each object shifts. Context alters content.

## Artist Biographies

### Lynda Monick-Isenberg

Lynda Monick-Isenberg is a visual artist who works in drawing and weaving. She has exhibited her work in group and solo exhibitions locally and nationally, and installed over 100 large-scale tapestry commissions nationwide. Her work is collected by private collectors and is included in the permanent collections of the Minnesota History Center, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Walker Art Center and Weisman Art Museum. Her most recent work is rooted in the principles of social justice and environmentalism; raises questions of equity, and art and designs opportunity to address change. Collaboration has become core to her practice recently engaging in Form+Content Gallery exhibitions *Dialogue on the Wall*, *Unbundling the Housing Crisis*, *Excavation of Zone 5*, *Nurture Nature* and *Intersections at MCAD*. Monick-Isenberg is a professor of Fine Art at the College of Visual Arts, where she chairs CVA's Foundation Studies Department, teaches drawing and directs the Teaching Artist Program. She holds an adjunct teaching position in MCAD's MFA program and has participated in the development and implementation of community based teaching artist residencies throughout Minnesota through Minneapolis Public Schools, St. Paul Public Schools and the Perpich Center for Arts Education. She was a WARM core member, a founding member of Form+Content Gallery and actively participates in the arts community in the Twin Cities.

### Garth Rockcastle

Garth Rockcastle is an architect, an academic and a re-constituter of found material. As an architect his primary focus has been on adaptively reusing derelict buildings and on facilities for the arts, art education

and creative living. As founding principal of Meyer Scherer & Rockcastle Architects he has completed over 100 projects in 17 states and two in Europe. As an academic he has been a professor at two public universities teaching design, theory and professional practice, while having taken his turn as the Head of Architecture at the University of Minnesota and Dean of Architecture, Planning and Preservation at the University of Maryland. The most recent of his many accomplishments are a 145,000 square foot adaptive reuse of a 1970's office building into the new College of Media Arts and Design for Drexel University in Philadelphia; renovating a former 1930-1960 public middle school into a 180,000 square foot Carleton College Interdisciplinary Art Lab in Northfield, Minnesota; renovating a former 65,000 square foot grouping of commercial buildings into Open Book, a literary and book arts center in Minneapolis; and the University of Minnesota Regis Center for Art, a new 155,000 square foot complex on the West Bank campus. He collaborates regularly with practicing artists on his projects, including Thomas Rose, Karen Wirth, and Andrew Leicester. His particular approach to the adaptive re-use of existing and historic structures is also a research and writing focus with 11 articles and essays completed on the topic. His habit of collecting and re-arranging things he finds along the way is a passion that sometimes finds itself in constructions and in exhibitions.

### **Karen Wirth**

Karen Wirth is an artist, educator, and vice president of academic affairs at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. Her work explores the relationships between words, objects, and space through artist's books, sculpture, public art, and critical writing. She has received Bush, McKnight, and Jerome artist fellowships as well as Bush and American Council on Education leadership fellowships. Her writing has been published in Places magazine and the Journal of Artists' Books. Her work has been shown internationally and is in many collections, including the Museum of Modern Art Library, the Getty Center, and Yale University. She collaborated with Lynda Monick-Isenberg on the exhibition *Intersections* at MCAD, and with Garth Rockcastle/MS&R on Hiawatha light rail station designs and the Gail See staircase at Open Book. She received an MFA in sculpture from the University of Minnesota–Twin Cities and a BFA in art education from the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee.

### **Press Images**

#### **01-Monick-Isenberg**

*Lamentations II-1*

Graphite and gouache  
30 x 9 in.

#### **02-Monick-Isenberg**

*Lamentations II-2*

Graphite and gouache  
30 x 9 in.

#### **03-Monick-Isenberg**

*Lamentations II-3*

Graphite and gouache  
30 x 9 in.

#### **04-Monick-Isenberg**

*Lamentations II-4*

Graphite and gouache  
30 x 9 in.

#### **05-Rockcastle**

*Media Loft (Floor Cut Wall)*

Open Book 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Commons  
Photograph by Rik Sferra

#### **06-Rockcastle**

*Media Loft Spatial Cut*

Open Book Doors Wall (Writer's Studios)  
Photograph by Rik Sferra

**07-Rockcastle**

*Cell #1 Paper Wasp >< Anasazi Colonies – Side View*  
Found objects, drawing, glass, paper

**08-Rockcastle**

*Structure #2*  
Found objects

**09-Wirth**

*found (object)*  
Unaltered found objects  
10 x 26 x 2 in.

**10-Wirth**

*Simile #1 (Tensed)*  
Photograph and unaltered found objects  
6 x 28 x 2 in.

**11-Wirth**

*All Work No Play*  
Unaltered found objects  
90 x 100 x 4 in.

**12-Wirth**

*Structures*  
Found book and objects, laser print  
40 x 20 x 5 in.

**Mission Statement**

Form+Content Gallery will nurture diverse artistic practice and thoughtful dialogue. We value art as a catalyst for critical thinking. We value integrity and the artistic process. We aspire to link personal expression to broader social contexts. Form+Content Gallery is dedicated to moving the definitions and practice of culture forward in new and lively ways. Suggestions and ideas for cultural partnerships and programs are welcome.