

SEA SHIFT

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Garth Amundsen and Pierre Gour

Working independently and as a collaborative team, Garth Amundson and Pierre Gour's work explores the perceptions and politics surrounding the home and domestic sphere and identity politics. Currently they are working on a body of work for exhibition in Stockholm, Sweden in the fall of 2009.

Amundson holds an MFA from Syracuse University and Gour from the University of New Mexico. Both are founding members of Shift Collaborative Studio in Seattle, WA.

Sharon Birzer

I collect things I find in nature: bugs, shells, bones, etc. to paint them in intricate detail, as if this could somehow keep them from disintegrating. My work investigates and invents systems: internal and external, fictional and actual. I work with outside/inside. How are living systems represented? How do these systems relate, how do they differ? The Plankton series is based on images of plankton from the Puget Sound that I've captured with a digital camera mounted on a microscope and magnified ten, sixty, and one hundred times. They further my exploration into internal body spaces and celebrate the light and clarity of such assisted visions.

Sharon Birzer lives next to the Puget Sound in Seattle, WA. She holds a BFA from Cornish College of the Arts, and an MFA from the University of Washington.

Magdalen Celestino

Magdalen Celestino's digital photography investigates recent findings in neuroscience. Scientists conclude that viewing certain images can change the way the brain works, causing specific parts of the brain to suddenly activate.

Magdalen puts this information to the test with images filtered through her own iconography informed by anthropology, art history and popular culture. These photographs take the form of cosmograms, where color and shape are key and the participants: shadowy figures, local vistas, and repurposed celebrity portraits play a role in sparking up the netherworld of the brain.

Magdalen Celestino's work has been exhibited in China, Italy, Spain, Germany, Peru, Canada, and the United States. Her work has been featured in art fairs including ARCO Madrid, ArtForum Berlin and the Armory Show, NYC. A graduate of the Ontario College of Art and Design (Experimental Art) and University of Windsor, (B.A. Art History), her work is in the public collections of the Art Gallery of Ontario, The Canada Council Art Bank, The Oakville Galleries, and the Art Gallery of Windsor. Magdalen was a long-listed nominee for the ArtHouse Texas Prize 2007.

Mary Coss

Mary Coss finds beauty in the scrap pile, in the things we throw away. She takes artifacts with familiar associations and individual histories, and puts them into a new context to examine the association between the manmade and natural worlds. Coss received her MFA from Syracuse University in interdisciplinary sculpture and media. Dividing her creative attention between studio work and public art, she has exhibited extensively throughout the United States.

Kamla Kakaria

Kamla Kakaria received an MFA in Printmaking from the University of Washington, in 2000. Currently she works mostly in encaustic. This piece is from a body of work entitled Curls and is a playful interaction between form and text.

Jessie Lyle

After 25 years of producing and exhibiting her work both nationally and internationally, Lyle finds that painting is still her greatest love. She is currently working on a long term project that embodies the skills listed in an ancient Hindu text and finds her greatest sources of inspiration in human interaction, flora, fauna, wild landscapes and dreams.

Claire Mack

Claire Mack considers her work to be essentially figurative, ranging from representational to abstract symbolism. Though visually different, each piece contains a similar quality of spirit, be it embodied in an image of a boy, or an ethereal shape or object. It is an exploration of an internal landscape where both personal and collective symbolism are recognized and shared.

Her most recent body of work has focused on beings that are at once protected and confined by their physical form. They are representational of both the seeker, isolated and bound in the physical plain, and the spirit world with which we strive to connect.

Christen Mattix

While sifting through the trash three years ago at a film editing booth, I discovered a segment of film that riveted my attention. The film was obviously old--the other colors had migrated long ago leaving only magenta. The film depicts an archetypal girl, around the age of 6, with pigtails. Watching this 3 second film, I was moved by the rawness and intensity of the emotions that flickered across her face and I felt that I had to create these paintings as a longer contemplation of this mysterious human being.

June Sekiguchi

I am interested in pattern in a cultural context where universal patterns evolve into an ethnic identity and further synthesizes into a personal vocabulary. Patterns are applied to sculptural form - in this case, a reconfigurable sculpture turned installation. The Foldable Polyhedron is a marriage of pattern and change. From flat, unhinged planes to the fullness of surfaces connected, the modifiable polyhedron transforms in character from passive to dynamic and back again. The installation is comprised of three polyhedrons each represented by a universal pattern, an ethnic pattern, and personal pattern system that have been deconstructed and merge to crawl across the walls and floor.

June Sekiguchi earned a degree in Studio Art in painting and drawing from the University of California at Santa Barbara. Recently she received a sculpture scholarship from Pratt Fine Arts, an Artist Trust GAP grant, and 4Culture Special Projects grant to explore welding which culminated in a solo show at Shift Collaborative Studio. Her work is in public and private collections including the King County Portable Works Collection, Bellevue Coast Hotel, Wing Luke Asian Museum, and Fall City Public Library. She continues to work in both wood and metal and is represented by ArtXchange Gallery in Seattle and is currently showing at Woman Made Gallery in Chicago.

Paula Stokes

Paula Stokes is an Irish artist who moved to Seattle sixteen years ago. Stokes works in glass and printmaking. The work shown in Sea Shift is from a series called "Bellybottles".

Rickie Wolfe

Rickie Wolfe received her BFA from Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle in 2000. Her wire sculptures are a continuation of her painting series 'Shapes and Navigation'. The sculpture starts as a 3D gesture and evolves quickly incorporating materials from her painting and print studios.

SEA SHIFT

List of Work

Garth Amundsen and Pierre Gour

Obra Negra No. 1 -Big Unit,

Pigment print,
21.5" X 43.5",
2007
Edition of 3
\$1200.00 (framed)

Obra Negra No. 2 -Contemporary Declaration,

Pigment print,
21.5" X 43.5",
2007
Edition of 3
\$1200.00 (framed)

Obra Negra No. 6 -Golden Guarantee,

Pigment print,
21.5" X 43.5",
2007
Edition of 3
\$1200.00 (framed)

Sharon Birzer

Plankton Series 1-4

Watercolor on panel
12" x 12" each, total dimension, 24" x 24"
2009
\$1600.00

Plankton Series 10-14

Watercolor on panel
10" x 8" each, total dimension, 20" x 16"
2009
\$1200.00

Magdalen Celestino

Flesh of Moonlight

Archival giclee print,
30" x 24"

2008

Edition of 5

\$1750.00 (framed)

Stay with Me

Archival giclee print,
24" x 30"

2008

Edition of 5

\$1750.00 (framed)

Mary Coss

From the Cradle

Mixed media, wood, metal and wax

10" x 10" x 5"

2007

\$750.00

To the Grave

Mixed media, wood and found objects

24" x 20" x 16"

2007

\$750.00

Kamla Kakaria

Curls

Encaustic with spray paint

12" x 12"

2009

\$350.00

Jessie Lyle

Owl,

Acrylic on birch,

8" x 8"

2009,

\$750.00

Star Light, Bright,

Acrylic on birch,

8" x 8"

2009,

\$750.00

Dear Deer,

Acrylic on birch,

8" x 8"

2009,

\$750.00

Claire Mack

Bluebird

Mixed media on canvas

20" x 16"

2006

\$450.00

Beatrice (Northern Light)

Oil/encaustic

24" x 24"

2007

\$750.00

Christen Mattix

Red Girl Series

Red Girl I.

Oil on canvas

4" x 6"

2007

\$375.00

Red Girl ii.

Oil on canvas

4" x 6"

2007

\$375.00

Red Girl iii.

Oil on canvas

4" x 6"

2007

\$375.00

Red Girl IV.

Oil on canvas

4" x 6"

2007

\$375.00

June Sekiguchi

Foldable Polyhedron X3

Acrylic on scroll cut wood panels, hinges, rivets

Each Folded Polyhedron 24"x24"x24"

Unfolded combined installation, dimensions variable up to 96"x72"x60"

18 square panels 12"x12", 24 triangle panels 12"x12"

2009

\$1400.00 for one polyhedron, \$3500.00 for entire installation

Paula Stokes

Orange, Yellow and Red Bellybottles

Blown and sandblasted glass

8" x 6" x 6"

2009

\$350.00 each

Rickie Wolfe

Swing Series

Wire, paper, fibers, bees wax and shellac

24" x 12" x 10"

2009

\$750.00