



FOTOFEST INTERNATIONAL and HOUSTON CENTER FOR PHOTOGRAPHY

www.fotofest.org | www.hcponline.org

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For Immediate Release:

## TALENT IN TEXAS IV

# Nowhere Near Here: New Photographic Work by Texas Artists

Curated by Toby Kamps and Michelle White, The Menil Collection, Houston, Texas for FotoFest and Houston Center for Photography (HCP)

March 10 - April 24, 2011

### OPENING RECEPTIONS:

Thursday, March 10, 2011 6 - 9pm at FotoFest

Friday, March 11, 2011 6 - 9pm at Houston Center for Photography



Mimi Kato, Scene 3: Rosy Tomorrow (detail), from the series *One Ordinary Day of an Ordinary Town*, 2009/2010



David Politzer, *Three Contenders* from the series *Heavy Weights*, 2010



Wura-Natasha Ogunji, *The epic crossings of an Ife head*, digital video, 2009

**HOUSTON, TEXAS - FEBRUARY 7, 2011** - FotoFest and Houston Center for Photography present a new exhibition **Nowhere Near Here: New Photographic Work by Texas Artists**, featuring 14 multi-disciplinary artists from across the state. *Nowhere Near Here* is the fourth exhibition in the **TALENT IN TEXAS** series. It is a participating exhibit in the statewide **Texas Biennial 2011**.

**Toby Kamps**, Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, Menil Collection and **Michelle White**, Associate Curator, Menil Collection are the invited curators. *Nowhere Near Here* is the fourth in the TALENT IN TEXAS series, started by FotoFest in 2004 to showcase younger artists and curators working in Texas. *Nowhere Near Here* is the second collaboration with Houston Center for Photography.

The exhibition is curated for both spaces – FotoFest Headquarters Downtown and Houston Center for Photography in the Museum District. The exhibition opens with two coordinated receptions: **Thursday, March 10 at FotoFest** and **Friday, March 11 at Houston Center for Photography**.

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The exhibition title, *Nowhere Near Here*, references the specificity of location with each of the selected artists speaking of a place that is familiar or foreign. The artists themselves are native Texans as well as transplants to the state from Japan, Colombia, Brazil, Canada, Mexico and other regions of the U.S.

The exhibition showcases a diverse range of contemporary work from video and three-dimensional installations to black & white and color photography. The works are both conceptual and documentary.

The artists are:

**Chris Akin (Houston, TX)**

Chris Akin's quiet and quirky photographs of Northern California are a statement on the current and difficult state of affairs in "The Golden State" and how contemporary reality compares to romanticized expectations.

**Adam Boley (Georgetown, TX)**

Even as environmental activists remind the general public of the importance of small, family-run farms, these farms continue to disappear at an alarming rate. Adam Boley documents this threatened way of life with photographs of his own family's farm in Texas and the people that still live and work there.



Adam Boley, *Growing Tomatoes*, 2009

**Logan Caldbeck (Marfa, TX)**

Logan Caldbeck, has traveled and photographed cowboy hunters and hunting culture in West Texas desert communities. Her two documentary projects are undertaken without judgment but are informed by her own "back to the land" upbringing, without running water or electricity, in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

**Santiago Forero (Austin, TX / Bogotá, Colombia)**

Santiago Forero was born and grew up in Bogotá, Colombia and came to Texas as an M.F.A. student. His project, *A Story about Gnomes*, juxtaposes photographs of the artist's four-year old niece with photographs of the artist, who is a dwarf. The work reveals ambiguous relationships between the figures of the two people and explores their common scale and identity.

**Mimi Kato (San Antonio, TX / Nara, Japan)**

Japanese-born, Texas educated Mimi Kato makes large, wall-sized digital collages of cartoon-like street scenes that are contemporary interpretations of subjects and genres of historic Japanese art. The scenes are populated by a wide array of multi-generational characters – each portrayed by the artist herself. The scenes' narratives reference Japanese theater, especially traditional *Kyogen* and the contemporary and controversial *Butoh*.

**Ivete Lucas and Otis Ike (Austin, TX)**

*Outside the Green Belt* is a photography and video installation by U.S. photographer Otis Ike and his wife, Mexican filmmaker Ivete Lucas. Made in Ivanhoe, Virginia, the work documents an Appalachian community that has survived the hardships of ecological transformation and industrial abandonment.

**Wura-Natasha Ogunji (Austin, TX)**

In her performance videos, the artist Wura-Natasha Ogunji, trained as an anthropologist, explores her connections to place, land, history and memory. Her works portray the journey of a Nigerian *Ife* head sculpture searching for her descendents in the Americas. Her stop-motion animation techniques give the character a sense of strained and staccato flight that is marked by truncated breathing and cacophonous sounds.

**Nancy Newberry (Dallas, TX)**

Nancy Newberry documents the tradition of the Texas "Homecoming Mum," inextricably tied to high school football. Deeply rooted in Texan culture, the mum tradition is said to be unique to the state and has evolved into an institution as highly regarded as the game itself.

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### **Mike Osborne (Austin, TX)**

Mike Osborne's documentary photographs are a meditation on the brute materiality of the urban environment and on the phenomenal labor of maintaining it. The pictures describe the contemporary vernacular - the diversity of buildings, road systems, power grids and the communication infrastructure.

### **Walker Pickering (Austin, TX)**

Walker Pickering is full of wanderlust, engaged in a perennial search for a new place, exotic and different from where he finds himself. His photographs portray places of solitude and temporary escape in his endless quest for the "archetypal West."



Walker Pickering, *Hole* from the series *Nearly West*, 2010

### **David Politzer (Houston, TX)**

Atlantic Giant Pumpkins commonly yield fruit in excess of 500 pounds. David Politzer photographs the oversized pumpkins in ways that make them seem anthropomorphic. The pumpkin rinds take the appearance of rolls of human flesh. The sensual, mildly abstracted images are juxtaposed with more documentary photographs of the proud pumpkin farmers.

### **Kelly Sears (Houston, TX)**

Museum of Fine Arts, Houston CORE Fellow Kelly Sears' animated video, *The Body Besieged*, explores a seemingly possessed psychic space occupied by distorted and ecstatic figures whose frantic and flailing forms animate their daily workout routines.

### **Clarissa Tossin (Houston, TX)**

The white marble floors of the Brasilia's Federal Supreme Court building, designed by the architect Oscar Niemeyer in 1957, are cleaned every day. Clarissa Tossin's video explores this daily ritual, choreographing it as a wasteful process that maintains the monumentality of the structure and the utopian promise of the city's plan.

With the exhibition, there will be four Saturday afternoon artist and curator talks, free to the public. The first **artist talk** takes place **Saturday, March 12, 2pm at Houston Center for Photography**. Subsequent talks take place **Saturday, March 26** and **Saturday, April 9, 2pm at FotoFest**. A special **tour by the exhibit's curators** is scheduled for **Saturday, April 16 beginning at FotoFest and continuing at Houston Center for Photography**.

Additional public events and programming will be announced on the FotoFest and Houston Center for Photography websites - [www.fotofest.org](http://www.fotofest.org) and [www.hcponline.org](http://www.hcponline.org).

*Nowhere Near Here* is a participating exhibit in the **Texas Biennial 2011** - a new state-wide project in April/May 2011 that features exhibitions of Texas artists in 21 Texas cities. Information on the Texas Biennial 2011 may be found on their website at [texasbiennial.org](http://texasbiennial.org)

***Nowhere Near Here* continues through April 23 at FotoFest and April 24 at Houston Center for Photography.**

For more information on *Nowhere Near Here* or for visuals, please contact:  
Vinod Hopson, FotoFest Press, 713.223.5522 ext 26, [press3@fotofest.org](mailto:press3@fotofest.org)  
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## **FOTOFEST 2010-2011 EXHIBITION SPONSORS**

Houston Endowment; The City of Houston through the Houston Arts Alliance; Texas Commission on the Arts; National Endowment for the Arts; The Wortham Foundation; Judith and Gamble Baldwin; Continental Airlines; FotoFest Board of Directors; iLand Internet Solutions; KUHF 88.7 FM; HexaGroup; Vine Street Studios; The Oshman Foundation; William and Rosalie Hitchcock; Frazier King; The Samuels Foundation – The Endowment Fund of the Jewish Community of Houston

## **HOUSTON CENTER FOR PHOTOGRAPHY 2010-2011 EXHIBITION SPONSORS**

Houston Center for Photography is supported by Houston Endowment; City of Houston through Houston Arts Alliance; The Brown Foundation; National Endowment for the Arts; Texas Commission on the Arts; The Eleanor and Frank Freed Foundation; Larson-Juhl; Meyer Levy Charitable Foundation; Artists' Framing Resource; Art Colony Association; CEC ArtsLink; Cemo Family Foundation; Clayton Dabney Foundation; JBD Foundation; QUE Imaging; The Simmons Foundation; Southern Union Company; Texas Children's Hospital; The Wortham Foundation, Inc; Patricia J. Eifel and Jim Belli; Frazier King; Antonio Manega, Gazer Design Group; Albert & Ethel Herzstein Foundation; Julie and Drew Alexander; Laura and Tom Bacon; Deborah Bay and Edgar Browning; Charles Butt and HEB; Marcia and Charlie Gerhardt; Sally and John Hopper; Barbara and Geoffrey Koslov; Locke, Lord, Bissell, & Liddell; James Maloney; Maria and Luis Mesa; Joan Morgenstern; W. Burt Nelson; Eddie Allen and Chinhui Juhn; Amy and Christopher Ashby; Bergner & Johnson; Kelly and Norman Bering; Cindi and Bob Blakely; Marti Boone; Brivic Media; Shelley Calton; Camera Co/Op; Joseph Carbonari; Becky and Mike Cemo; Jereann Chaney; Michael Cole; Susan and Patrick Cook; Sarah Balinskas and Jeff DeBevec; Tommy Dickey; Bevin and Dan Dubrowski; Michael Patrick Dumont; ExxonMobil Foundation; Patsy Graham; Robert Gulley; Houston Camera Exchange; Bill Hunt; John Cleary Gallery; Wendy and Mavis Kelsey, Jr.; Sherry and James Kempner; Christine Laptuta; Sam Lasseter and Dillon Kyle; Erika and James Liu; Kevin Longino; Mickey and Mike Marvins; Libbie Masterson; Muffy and Alexander K. McLanahan; Betty Pecore and Howard Hilliard; Nicole and Jim Perdue; Pia Puno; Robertson-Finley Foundation; Sue and Bob Schwartz; Robin and Sandy Stuart; Wade Wilson Art; Patricia and Paul Winkler; Madeline Yale and Craig Preston

## **FOTOFEST INTERNATIONAL**

Founded in 1983 by photographers Frederick Baldwin and Wendy Watriss, FotoFest is a year-round, international non-profit organization promoting the photographic arts and education. FotoFest started the first and longest-running international citywide festival of photography in the U.S. The Biennial festivals and FotoFest's year-long programming are known for their presentation of important talent, contemporary and historical, from around the world. In selecting its exhibitions and related art programs, FotoFest has a strong commitment to aesthetic quality and important social ideas. FotoFest has curated and commissioned exhibitions of photo-based art from Latin America, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. Its Biennial portfolio review, the Meeting Place, is considered one of the best in the world. In addition to its year-round art programming, FotoFest's school-based education program, Literacy Through Photography, uses photography to stimulate visual literacy, writing and analytical thinking.

FotoFest is located at 1113 Vine Street in Downtown Houston. Gallery hours are: Monday – Wednesday and Friday, 10am - 5pm; Thursdays, 10am - 7pm; Saturday, noon-5pm. For more information, please call 713-223-5522 ext 19 or visit [www.fotofest.org](http://www.fotofest.org).

## **HOUSTON CENTER FOR PHOTOGRAPHY**

Founded in 1981, Houston Center for Photography is a nonprofit organization offering year-round exhibitions, workshops, publications, outreach programs, lectures, classes, and home to an on-site library housing more than 2,500 books on photography as well as a state of the art digital darkroom. HCP's mission is to increase society's understanding and appreciation of photography and its evolving role in contemporary culture. HCP strives to encourage artists, build audiences, stimulate dialogue, and promote inquiry about photography and related media through education, exhibitions, publications, fellowship programs, and community collaboration. HCP is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization serving as a resource to its members and the community with programs that have regional and national impact.

HCP is located at 1441 West Alabama in the Museum District of Houston. Gallery hours are: Wednesday - Sunday, 11am - 5pm; Thursdays, 11am - 9pm For more information, please call 713-529-4755 or visit [www.hcponline.org](http://www.hcponline.org).