

Notes To Nonself

By Diane Christiansen and Shoshanna Utchenik
February 11 – May 2, 2010

Exhibition Reception: February 14, 3 -5 p.m.

Talk with the Artists: Sunday, March 7, 2 pm

Concert & Puppet Show: Saturday, March 6, 7 pm

Steve Dawson, Diane Christiansen and Frank Rosaly perform.
Donation suggested.

Gallery 1 & the Jackman Goldwasser Catwalk Gallery

Gallery Hours:

Monday – Thursday: 10am – 8pm

Friday – Saturday: 10am – 5pm

Sunday: 12pm – 5pm



Image of proposed *Notes to Nonself* installation, 2009

Chicago, IL (December 2009) – Artists Diane Christiansen and Shoshanna Utchenik collaborate on a new and lively multi-media art installation, *Notes to Nonself*, on view in Gallery 1 at the Hyde Park Art Center from February 11 to May 2, 2010. *Notes to Nonself* sends the viewer on a journey through collective virtues, vices, and resulting neuroses common to the American experience. A tongue-in-cheek physical representation of the psyche, visitors are invited to wander the Ego Forest, wade through the Relationship Bardo, then take solace in the Meditation Refuge. The immersive artwork combines the qualities of Tibetan Thangka paintings, cartoon animation, alternative music, board games and pop-up books to provide a pathway into the human subconscious.

The abundant drawings, sculptures, paintings, animation, and audio work presented together in *Notes to Nonself* explore themes of impermanence, sensory overload, mind chatter and psychological refuge. While making the work Utchenik, who resides in Ljubljana, Slovenia and Christiansen who lives in Chicago dialogued via email, Skype, and in-person meeting. Their method of communicating not only bridged the physical distance between the two, but also led the artists to ponder the impossibility of personal connections despite our deep, endless desire to form them. *Notes to Nonself* is inspired by what the artists refer to as the “constant struggle for balance and meaning within the schizophrenically introspected and extroverted life.” The artwork aims to provide the viewer with a temporary, meditative refuge from the chaos of selfhood. The exhibition will debut the first collaborative animation video by Diane Christiansen and Matt Marsden.

Diane Christiansen studied at Grinnell College, the Kansas City Art Institute, and Loyola University; she received a MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and she currently lives in Chicago. She has exhibited her artwork nationwide for over twenty years and her work can be seen on record album covers for the rock/alt-country band Dolly Varden, of which she is co-founder and contributing vocalist. Christiansen is also a practicing psychotherapist in Wicker Park, an occupation that influences her work. Her work is represented by kasia kay art projects gallery (Chicago).

Shoshanna Utchenik lives in Slovenia and lived and worked in Chicago for twelve years prior to her move overseas. She holds a BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and a MFA from Northwestern University’s Department of Art Theory and Practice. She has worked as an interdisciplinary artist, curator, and theatrical performer, designer, director and builder. Her work has been strongly influenced by her teaching experiences at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Hyde Park Art Center, Gallery 37 and Urban Gateways.

Notes To Nonself will be on view from February 11 to May 2, 2010, at the Hyde Park Art Center, 5020 South Cornell Avenue, Chicago, IL, 60615; 773.324.5520 and www.hydeparkart.org. Exhibitions are always free and open to the public.

The Hyde Park Art Center is a not-for-profit organization that presents innovative exhibitions; primarily work by Chicago-area artists, and educational programs in the visual arts for children and adults of diverse backgrounds. The Center is funded in part by the Alphawood Foundation; The Chicago Community Trust; a City Arts III grant from the City of Chicago’s Department of Cultural Affairs and the Illinois Arts Council; The Lloyd A. Fry Foundation; The Leo S. Guthman Fund; The Irving Harris Foundation; The Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; The Joyce Foundation; JPMorgan Chase Foundation; The Mayer & Morris Kaplan Family Foundation; The MacArthur Foundation; The MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince; The Orbit Fund; Polk Bros. Foundation; The Clinton Family Fund; The Sara Lee Foundation; South East Chicago Commission; The Wallace Foundation; and the generosity of its members and friends.