

Related Events:

All events are free and open to the public.

Exhibition Reception:

Sunday, February 12, 3 pm

Closing Conversation with the Artist:

Sunday, April 29, 3 pm

Visit the Concurrent Exhibition of David Leggett's paintings:

It's getting to the point where nobody respects the dead. Fresh to death.

January 27 until March 20, 2012

at

Western Exhibitions, 119 N Peoria St, Suite 2A, Chicago, IL 60607

Gallery hours: Wedensdays thru Saturdays, 11am to 6pm

About the Artist:

Born in Massachusetts, David Leggett moved to Chicago in 2003 to study painting and drawing at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, where he received a MFA. He received a BFA from Savannah College of Art and Design. He is the recipient of several awards for his artwork, including the Fellowship Award for Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture and the 3Arts Visual Artist Award. His work has been exhibited throughout the United States at the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, the New Museum of Contemporary Art (NY), and Sound Alternative Space for Contemporary Art (TX), as well as around Chicago at Western Exhibitions and 65 Grand. For more information visit www.davidleggettart.com.

Hyde Park **ARTCENTER**

5020 South Cornell Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60615 773.324.5520 www.hydeparkart.org

The Hyde Park Art Center is at once an exhibition space, learning annex, community resource, and social hub for the art curious and professional artists alike — carrying out its mission to stimulate and sustain the visual arts in Chicago. The Art Center is funded in part by the: Alphawood Foundation; Andy Warhol Foundation for Visual Arts; Chicago Community Trust; a City Arts III grant from the City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events; David C. and Sarajeon Ruttenberg Arts Foundation; Field Foundation of Illinois; Harper Court Arts Council; Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; The Irving Harris Foundation; Joyce Foundation; Leo S. Guthman Fund; Lloyd A. Fry Foundation; MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince; National Endowment for the Arts; Polk Bros. Foundation; Searle Funds at The Chicago Community Trust; and the generosity of its members and people like you. The Hyde Park Art Center does not discriminate against any person for reason of race, gender, age, place of national origin, handicap, religious conviction, marital status, veteran status or sexual preference.

Gallery 5

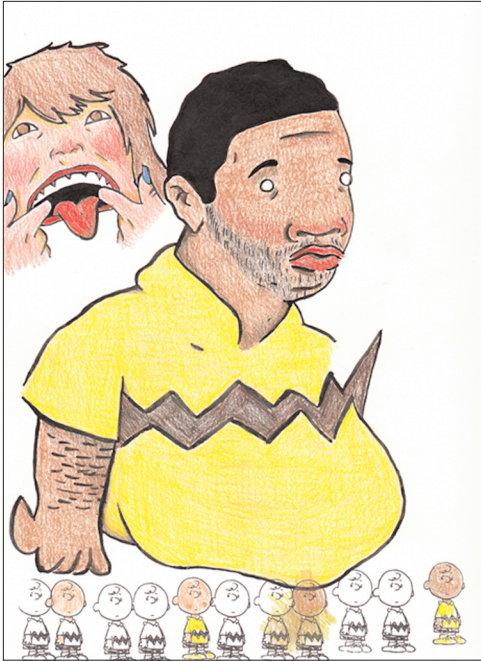
January 15 - April 29, 2012

David Leggett: *Coco River Fudge Street*



David Leggett, *Watermelon Bro*, 2011,
Ink and collage on paper, 9 x 12 inches (framed)

The Lure of the Inappropriate



David Leggett, *Chuck*, 2011, Color pencil, ink and rubber stamp on paper, 9 x 12 inches (framed)

The exhibition *Coco River Fudge Street* showcases the authentic style of emerging artist, David Leggett, which he has been cultivating over the past several years. These 150 works on paper chronicle Leggett's comically dark thoughts and musings on current events in pop culture, politics and the economy, although his personal relationships also make quite a few appearances as well.

Throughout 2011, David Leggett created an artwork a day for his year-long blog project: *Coco River Fudge Street*. The blog is named after a fictitious location invented by the artist "to sound funny, dirty, and tasty at the same time", which provides insight into the desired tone established in his work. It's no surprise

that he has amassed quite a virtual following of teen boys as his biggest fans on tumblr, the free website that hosts the blog. (<http://davidleggett.tumblr.com>)

You don't have to be a teen boy to see what all the fuss is about. The candid, disturbing, and puzzling humor characteristic of Leggett's artistic style peaks universal curiosity, if not giggles and gasps.

Reactions to Leggett's work are similar to the first reactions the works by the Chicago Imagists received when they first exhibited at the Hyde Park Art Center in the 1970s as emerging artists (for example, see the work of Jim



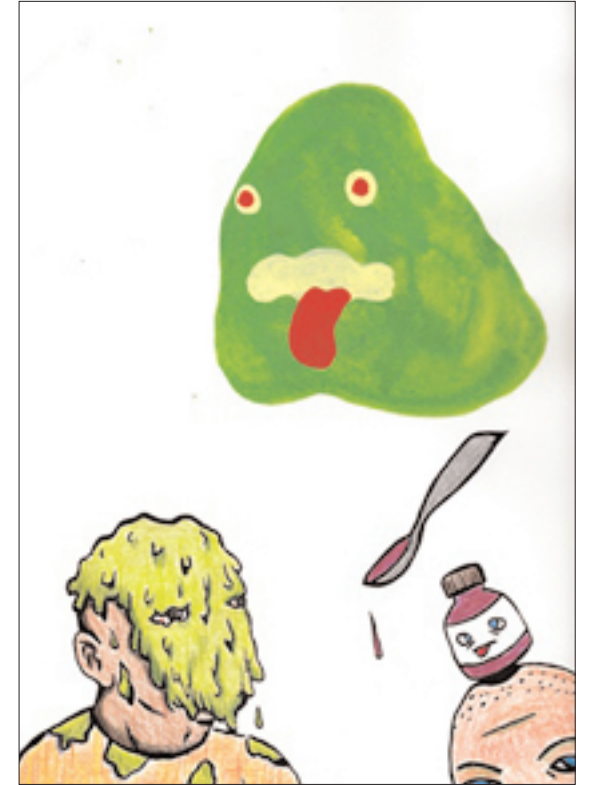
Installation view

Nutt, Gladys Nilsson, and Christina Ramberg in the adjacent exhibition *Someone Else's Dream*). The exhibition features only a small sampling of the larger body of work in the blog project, displayed in a format that exposes the artist's serial process.

Every artist needs parameters when embarking on a new project and the blog acts as a daily creative exercise to get the juices flowing, as well as a visual journal to process life's mundane experiences. Many of the figures present in Leggett's drawings are caricatures of himself (yet only one of the drawings in the show is titled "David Leggett"), and suggest the autobiographical nature of the project. Some work is Leggett's response to casual conversations he has overheard between strangers on the street, at parties or around town.

Through the blog, Leggett is able to open up the content of the work by encouraging public collaboration in his drawing experiment. As part of the project guidelines, he created "By Request Tuesdays", where anyone could email him a suggestion topic for a work, which he would then create. "Old School Fridays", forced him to unearth and post a drawing he is particularly embarrassed (does he get embarrassed?) about from his undergraduate art career. All the other days of the week were open to interpretation, and Leggett clearly has no problem exposing the darkest Freudian thoughts in his mind.

Allison Peters Quinn
Director of Exhibitions



David Leggett, *Slime*, 2011, Ink and color pencil on paper, 9 x 12 inches (framed)