

Related Events:

All events are free and open to the public.

Exhibition Reception:

Sunday, February 12, 3 pm

Tour with the Curator:

Sunday, March 25, 3 pm

About the Curator:

Someone Else's Dream is guest curated by **John McKinnon**, the Program Director of The Society for Contemporary Art at The Art Institute of Chicago. From 2007 to 2010, he was Assistant Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at the Milwaukee Art Museum. He has written for *ArtForum*, *Art Papers*, and *X-TRA*. He holds dual Masters Degrees in Art History and Arts Administration from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Gallery 4

January 29 - May 6, 2012

Someone Else's Dream

Featuring:

Arturo Herrera, Richard Hull, José Lerma, Héctor Madera-González, Martin McMurray, Gladys Nilsson, Jim Nutt, Christina Ramberg, Peter Saul, and T.L. Solien



T. L. Solien, *Mechanic's Jersey*, Mixed media/collage, 30 x 35 inches, Courtesy of the artist

Hyde Park **ARTCENTER**

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

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My eyes make pictures when they are shut.
--Samuel Taylor Coleridge

All human beings are also dream beings. Dreaming ties all mankind together.
--Jack Kerouac

Someone Else's Dream is an exhibition of works on paper-which itself could be seen as a sketch for a larger project about the fantastic-filled with references to high and low art, recognizable human forms, and psychological imagery. It features artists who took part in the milestone Hairy Who (Gladys Nilsson and Jim Nutt) and False Image (Christina Ramberg) exhibitions at the Hyde Park Art Center in the 1960s; artists at a slight distance from Chicago Imagism (Richard Hull and Peter Saul); and others that are not affiliated with this local history (Arturo Herrera, José Lerma, Héctor Madera-González, Martin McMurray, and T.L. Solien). The spectrum of multi-generational artists provides an opportunity to acknowledge the personal efforts by each artist and create new associations of the work outside of a predictable historical analysis.



Gladys Nilsson, *The Well*, 2008, Watercolor and gouache on paper, 30 x 22.5 inches
Courtesy of Jean Albano Gallery

within today's art world through the grotesque, abject, and uncanny. The use of fantastic imagery was concentrated in Chicago in the 1960s, resulting in the declarative label of the Chicago Imagists, but was not (and is not) isolated. As Jack Kerouac wrote, "Dreaming ties all mankind together."

The works in the exhibition do not reference scenes of life, but rather a fictive space. Each artist uses

techniques of distortion to create private myths and imagery through pliable biomorphic forms, gestural lines, and cartoon-like figures. This is evident in Gladys Nilsson's lithe figures permeating her composition from many angles and Peter Saul's energetic drawing of limbs intermingled with a plane, submarine, coke bottle, and other objects. Works by Martin McMurray, Jim Nutt, and T.L. Solien produce sexual tension with exaggerated reproductive organs and confrontations between multiple figures. Other psychic intensities are fashioned by Arturo Herrera, Richard Hull, and Christina Ramberg through disembodied figure fragments that stand in for a whole. The sculptural figure by José Lerma and Héctor Madera-González contains another kind of fracture, personal life experiences blended with obscure art historical references. All the works in this exhibition contain more depth than cursory comparisons reveal. Without going too far down the proverbial rabbit hole, a fuller appreciation can only be discovered by viewing the works in person and delving head first into someone else's dream.

This exhibition includes a group of artists without a narrow historical categorization. Definitions of any group, style, or movement are always limiting because they are bound to have exceptions, special cases, or be highly conditional-as is the case of the Chicago Imagists. By contrast, less strict classifications often promote more complex and diverse viewpoints, continual re-examinations, and rich territories to mine.

John McKinnon
Curator of *Someone Elses' Dream*



Richard Hull, *Untitled*, 2011, Ink and charcoal on paper, 24 x 18 inches, Courtesy of the artist and Western Exhibitions