

Related Events:

All events are free and open to the public.

Exhibition Reception

Sunday, February 14, 3-5pm

Talk with the Artist

Sunday, January 31, 2-4pm

The artist will talk informally about her work.

About the Artist

Originally from Charleston, South Carolina, Aspen Mays now lives and works in Chicago, Illinois. She recently received an MFA in Photography from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and a BA from the University of North Carolina. Her photography has been reviewed in national publications including Artforum and Art Papers and has received solo exhibitions at Golden Gallery (Chicago) and Still Lights Gallery (San Francisco). Mays was recently awarded a Fulbright Grant to travel to Santiago, Chile and work with international teams of astronomers who study Chile’s northern deserts in 2010. More information on the artist is available at www.aspenmays.com.

Hyde Park ARTCENTER

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

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 3Arts, Alphawood Foundation; Boeing; a City Arts III grant from the City of Chicago’s Department of Cultural Affairs and the Illinois Arts Council; Creative New Zealand; Harper Court Arts Council; The Lloyd A. Fry Foundation; The Leo S. Guthman Fund; The Irving Harris Foundation; Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; 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 Wallace Foundation; and the generosity of its members and friends.

Hyde ParkARTCENTER
Cleve E. Carney Gallery

January 24 – April 25, 2010

**Aspen Mays:
From the Offices of Scientists**



Boulder Desk, 2010, office desk, boulder, cubicle walls, trash can, legal paper, computer keyboard, and carpet, dimensions variable

The exhibition From the Office of Scientists features a new body of work addressing the question “What does knowledge look like?” Artist Aspen Mays activates the office cubicle as a site for information production and general inquiry where “big ideas” are generated. For the first time in her career, Mays mixes photography with sculpture to construct an installation that challenges the value of photography in art while questioning the validity of the artifact.

Aspen Mays employs an array of non-traditional techniques in her work as a means of exploring cosmological questions through everyday materials. For example, she once captured fireflies inside a medium format camera and developed the film revealing a brilliant chartreuse from the chemical reaction. Often embodying the persona of an amateur scientist, Mays blends humor, popular culture and performative experimentation for the camera in attempt to locate the limits of both her own personal understanding of these fundamental questions of existence as well as the horizons of understanding within larger human endeavors.

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Planet Boxes, Cardboard document boxes, 2009

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If you think you've found a meteorite...Engraved plastic sign, cabinet, 2009



You're Next, Archival inkjet print, 13 x 20 inches, 2009