

Related Events:

All events are free and open to the public.

Artist's reception:

Sunday June 12, 3 - 5 pm

Partnering Institutions:

DiverseWorks is a non-profit art center in Houston with a strong reputation for presenting a significant program of contemporary visual art, performing art, and literary art for over 25 years.

Founded in 1997 **Artadia** is a non-profit fund whose mission is to encourage innovative practice and meaningful dialogue across the United States by providing visual artists in specific communities with unrestricted awards and a national network of support. Since its founding, Artadia has awarded over \$2 million to more than 200 artists in cities across the country. In 2010 Artadia inaugurated The Artadia Exhibitions Exchange program, a ground-breaking exhibitions initiative to foster dialogue and exchange between artists, peer organizations, and arts communities around the country. By exhibiting Awardees from one Artadia city in another program city, the series of five shows in 2010-2011 provides vital exposure for Artadia Awardees, partner communities as cultural hubs, as well as new avenues for curatorial enrichment. Please check www.artadia.org for more information.

The **Artadia Exhibitions Exchange** is made possible through lead funding from The Andy Warhol Foundation for Visual Arts. Additional support is provided by the two anonymous family foundations, Judith Alexander Foundation, The Graue Family Foundation, Houston Endowment Inc., National Endowment for the Arts, and many generous individuals.

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 Sarajean 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.

Hyde Park **ARTCENTER**

Gallery 4

June 12 - September 11, 2011

Messin' with Texas



Installation image

Featuring Artadia Award 2010 Houston recipients:

David Aylsworth
Bill Davenport
Augusto Di Stefano
Nathaniel Donnett
J Hill
Jeff Shore and Jon Fisher
Nestor Topchy

Houston, Texas is a lively platform for artists where no artist needs a permit to sell their work or special zoning to live and work in their studio. For Chicago artists, this may sound like Shangri La, but such a city really does exist.

Like Chicago, Houston is one of the five US cities that Artadia, a non-profit granting organization for the visual arts, focuses on to award grants given directly to resident artists every other year. The exhibition Messin' with Texas was produced as part of an art exchange with DiverseWorks Art Space in Houston and initiated through the Artadia Exhibitions Exchange. Earlier this year, DiverseWorks exhibited the artwork by the Artadia Awardees 2008 Chicago in Spring 2011 and featured the work by Melika Bass, Juan Angel Chavez, Jim Duignan, Theaster Gates, Kelly Kaczynski, Dutes Miller & Stan Shellabarger, and Kim Piotrowski. Participating in this exchange has allowed the Hyde Park Art Center to strengthen its efforts to connect Chicago artists to artists all over the country and open the conversation of contemporary art to include more awareness of art being made here.

A diverse range of contemporary artists thrive in Houston as witnessed in this exhibition featuring work by the seven Artadia Awardees 2010 Houston: David Aylsworth, Bill Davenport, Augusto Di Stefano, Nathaniel Donnett, J Hill, Jeff Shore and Jon Fisher, and Nestor Topchy. The artists were selected by three nationally known jurors—Mónica Ramírez-Montagut, Curator, Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, CT; Sandra Jackson-Dumont, Deputy Director for Education and Public Programs/Adjunct Curator, Seattle Art Museum; and Toby Kamps, Senior Curator, Contemporary Arts Museum Houston. Artadia received a record-breaking 230 applicants from Harris County, TX, and after much thought, studio visits, and critical conversation given by the three curators, these artists were chosen to receive grants between \$3,000 and \$15,000. This exhibition organized by Allison Peters Quinn, Director of Exhibitions at the Art Center, celebrates the artists' latest achievements.



David Aylsworth, *Mutual Admiration Society*, 2011, oil on canvas, 24 x 18 inches

About the Artists:

The pared-down oil paintings of **David Aylsworth** employ a playful language of evocative forms, unusual colors, and textures in abstractions. Titled after lyrics of Broadway musicals, the paintings reference musical theater's excitement and frivolity, yet focus on the interaction of various formal elements. He says of his paintings, "Plucked from their intended context, they reference the music and plot of their source while defining a new, personal activity and space within the painting."

Bill Davenport is an artist who embraces his inner hobbyist. His objects and installations vary from crocheted light bulb covers to needlepoint drawings to wonky wood sculptures, often using irony and wit simultaneously to delight and hint at darker underlying content. Recently, he has pulled his collection of thrift store art, housed in a store named Bill's Junk, into his practice. Davenport describes it as "a low-pressure haven for the appreciation of the incomplete, the flawed, the amateur, the innocence objects... and leaves judgment of worthiness to the viewer."

Augusto Di Stefano uses deliberate marks on canvas and paper to create images that evoke emotional and physical boundaries. His paintings employ a variety of processes—spraying, brushstrokes, sanding, rolling, drizzling—while his mostly graphite drawings depict representational structures. His interest lies in the conversation between

the built space and the psychological space of an individual. In particular, how does the architecture around us influence who we become? Examining his works, like creating them, is a solitary and obsessive act that leads to layers of introspection and self-absorption.

Multi-media artist

Nathaniel Donnett creates a variety of methods to communicate and question intrinsic cultural conceits and notions of value, and often solicits participation from the viewer. Currently, his work addresses the coded meanings of brown paper and black plastic bags, mirroring the tensions between light- and dark-skinned people of African descent. Through his drawings, collages, sculpture, and installations Donnett aims to explore blackness, ostracism, beauty, knowledge, and worth in American society.



Augusto Di Stefano, *Plan for a History* (model one)-detail, 2011, graphite, gouache and ink on paper, 32 1/4 x 76 inches (framed)

J. Hill's projects are driven by subject matter and context; his methods of interventions, social practice, and new media investigate community conversations, cultural backgrounds, and connect disparate people and places. A self-described storyteller who enables stories of ordinary people, Hill has created pirate AM radio stations, worked with Sioux Indians to make a relational teepee sculpture, and teamed with an opera company and composer to produce an outdoor audio environment. For the Art Center, Hill's mobile sculpture *Welcome Wagon* tours Chicago manned by local artists and performers to build a spontaneous program of live performances from concerts, to workshops, to impromptu movie screenings coming to a park near you. To participate or learn more about the schedule of events contact jhillprojects@gmail.com

The collaborative work of **Jeff Shore & Jon Fisher** involves electro-mechanical sculptural installations that perform in real time to create surreal and cinematic audio and video displays. The functional electrical systems and mechanical devices are left intentionally exposed, creating elaborate wire drawings on the wall. Hand-crafted dioramas are animated within the installation's small boxes, which feed to a video screen, accompanied by a continuously created soundtrack. These organic systems result in a poetic complexity and a use of metaphor that is epic. Shore and Fisher recently had a solo show at Derek Eller Gallery, New York and McClain Gallery, Houston.

Nestor Topchy is a painter, sculptor, installation, and performance artist whose past endeavors in Houston include co-founding the artist-run exhibition, performance, and residency space Zocalo/TemplO. His painting projects are influenced by sacred art and explore icon-making, abstract and pattern work, and portraiture. He is in the process of realizing a plan for a self-sustaining art village, "Organ," composed of shipping containers that accommodate affordable studio and living spaces, a bazaar, performance areas, meditation chapels, and other communal amenities. Topchy was included in CAM Houston's "No Zoning" and has lectured extensively on the sacred arts.