

Gallery 3

September 3 –
October 8
2006

RESPOND!

In the RESPOND! Series, the Art Center asks visitors to tell us what they think about the work in the exhibition:

Hey, that's no ordinary cloud.

...
...
... - - - ...

(Insert the following thoughts here, simultaneously. Good luck.)

Linear path of years. Colliding with self. Pit stop (restrest). Gas up, make repairs, swig of water, bet your faith on duct tape. Consider actual evidence vs. perceived truth. Personal Experience vs. Television Almighty. What of collective memory? Are we closer to one another for having experienced past events or do we crashlessly create orbits which will, through no fault of our own, of course, eventually get us kicked out of the heavens? When will human spirit prevail over human ego?

(You were a good dog, Pluto, old boy)

Yes, I remember 1986 too. That nice teacher took all of us along with her that day. For a few flightless moments we were equals in a timeless January. Cruel jokes told or heard, rationalized as being created from our combined discomfort and sense of mortality.

(I am sorry and thank you, Ms. McA.)

Obviously a major malfunction. This president's face, acting, talking, promising. Bigger America! More America! The lessons we learn are the lessons we make for ourselves. Lissen here- You bring that cloud inside and set it in the window before it catches cold! Now hush up and watch...You got the clicker?

(You are safe here.)

These tracks we make on papered floor. We must assume it is intended. The average observer's pause in front of your artwork is approximately 3 seconds. Less if it's not pretty. Are our footsteps pretty? Tell me, are they worth more on Earth or on the Moon? Regardless, understand that you are making art right now, by observing, by breathing, by waking up, by passing through, by living, by dying, by participating as a part of the human race.

(Pleased to meet you.)

Jessi T. Walsh

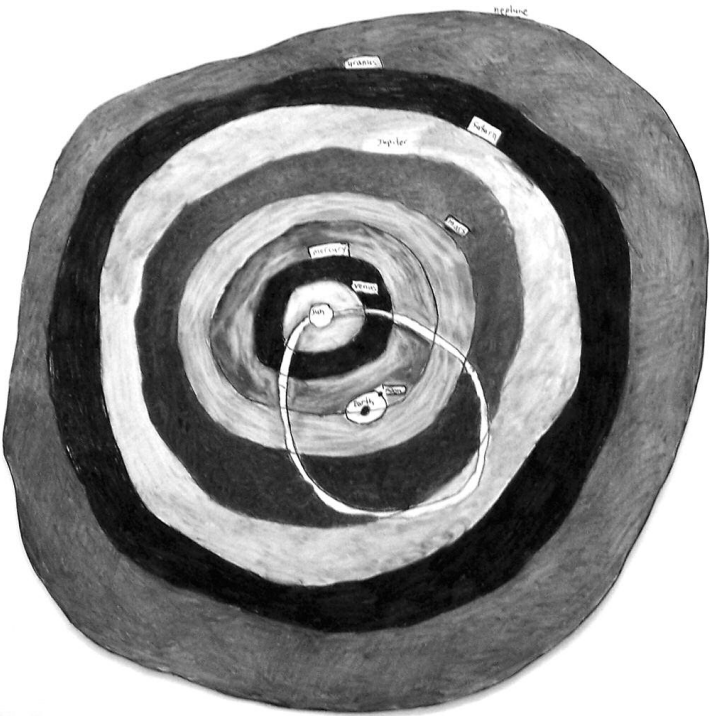
MA candidate at Columbia College and faculty member at the Art Center

This exhibition is supported in part by The Orbit Fund.

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 Illinois Humanities Council, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Illinois General Assembly; The Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation; The Lucius and Eva Eastman Foundation; The Field Foundation of Illinois; Lloyd A. Fry Foundation; The Leo S. Guthman Fund; The Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; The Joyce Foundation; The Mayer & Morris Kaplan Family Foundation; Kraft Foods; The MacArthur Foundation; The MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince; The National Endowment for the Arts; The Orbit Fund; The Playboy Foundation; Polk Bros. Foundation; The Clinton Family Fund; The Sara Lee Foundation; South East Chicago Commission; The Terra Foundation for American Art; and The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts; and the generosity of its members and friends.

Shane Huffman is represented by Skestos Gabriele Gallery, Chicago

Wanna be part of the human race Works by Shane Huffman



Tycho! Tycho! Yes!
2004-2006
graphite on paper
40 x 36 inches

Hyde Park**ARTCENTER**

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



Eclipse
2004-2006
silver gelatin print on plexi
40 x 36 inches

The quest for knowledge and understanding of the world continues for the Chicago artist Shane Huffman in an exhibition of his photography, drawing and sculpture at the art center. Over the last four years, Huffman has continued to develop a body of work he calls “want to be part of the human race”, which investigates the various discoveries and accomplishments of man—both on the individual and universal levels. Ranging from the tragedy of the spaceship Challenger to the artist’s infant son reaching the stage of self-recognition, the ongoing series wrestles with the larger concept of time as an impartial force impacting natural objects and beings. This search and exploration in Huffman’s art practice is ongoing and the artworks shown here are not a culmination of the project, but rather they represent a portion of the series still in progress.

Wanna be part of the human race will also feature a new 12 foot long sculpture by Huffman made from fiberglass, clear stretchwrap, and adhesive. Wound tightly in streamline form, the work literally represents the trajectory of the artist’s body outstretched as it would be in the process of a swimmer’s flip turn. The sculpture eloquently captures the fluidity of infinite motion while seeming to make time stand still.

Struggle, endurance, growth and failure are just some of the conditions revisited by Huffman as he continues his attempt to define what it means to be human.

Shane Huffman is interested in the countless ways one can travel through physical space and his work surveys the mental and physical state of the journey. Previous works have focused on the metaphor of swimming as a means to reach the moon, pushing the physical limits of the body to exist outside of the body. Struggle, endurance, growth and failure are just some of the conditions revisited by Huffman as he continues his attempt to define what it means to be human. He received his MFA from the University of Illinois—Chicago and a BFA from John Herron School of Art in Indianapolis. His work has increasingly been exhibited in the U.S. and abroad as well as in several group shows at the Hyde Park Art Center, including *Rupturing Beauty* (2002) and *Operation: Human Intelligence* (2003). *Wanna be part of the human race* is the first solo exhibition of the artist’s work at the Art Center.