

Hyde Park **ARTCENTER**
Gallery 4

October 26, 2008 - January 4, 2009

VOCALS: Mark Booth, Karen Christopher, Noe Cuellar, Patrick Durgin, Laura Goldstein, Matthew Goulish, Ian Hatcher, Kristin Hayter, CJ Mitchell, Terri Kapsalis, Jared Larson, Lou Mallozzi, and Adrian Moens

DESIGN: Veronica Corzo-Duchardt

METAL: Dan Mackessy

VIDEO: Jared Larson

AUDIO ENGINEERING: Lou Mallozzi

Related Events:

All events are free and open to the public.

Opening Reception

Sunday, October 26, 3-5pm

Live Spoken Performances in the Gallery

Saturday, November 15, 2-3pm, guest performer tbd

Saturday, December 6, 2-3pm, guest performer tbd

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Experimental Sound Studio is a nonprofit organization in Chicago founded in 1986 and dedicated to the promotion, production, presentation, and preservation of innovative and diverse approaches to the sonic arts and to the integration of these art forms into the public.

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 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 Lloyd A. Fry Foundation; The Leo S. Guthman Fund; The Irving Harris Foundation; The Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; The Joyce Foundation; 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 Sara Lee Foundation; South East Chicago Commission; The Wallace Foundation; and the generosity of its members and friends.

Spanish Still Life or A Large List of Merged Animals by Mark Booth



This project is presented in conjunction with the 2008 Outer Ear Festival of Sound, a program of Experimental Sound Studio, Chicago. www.ExSoSt.org.

Spanish Still Life or A Large List of Merged Animals employs sound, performance, and projection to dissect and restructure a 17th century painting by Spanish artist Juan Sánchez Cotán into a dynamic installation. This latest immersive artwork by artist Mark Booth seeks to provide a physical and psychological contemporary exploration of two Baroque still life paintings by Juan Sánchez Cotán. Booth's inspiration to create this work stems from his interest in the structure or order of anything from sentences and thoughts to events and time.

The installation includes large scale projections of both *Still Life with Game Fowl* (1600/1603) from the collection of the Art Institute of Chicago and *Quince, Cabbage, Melon and Cucumber* (1602) from the collection of the San Diego Art Museum on opposite sides of the gallery. Within minutes, the two paintings slowly merge into the other and back again repeatedly on both screens. Two metal panels made in the exact dimensions as the original paintings hang on the walls between the projections literally and figuratively reflecting the real artworks. An audio component fills the room with thirteen voices reciting a poetic score written by Booth and edited down to a 100-minute soundtrack. The only tune that surfaces occasionally has been constructed from a tone comprised of the first four notes of song about the twelve months by Romantic composer, Benjamin Godard (1849-1895). The combination of sound and video transfers an eerie still life painting into a multi-dimensional study of organizational strategies.

The exhibition also includes a set of black and white inkjet prints located in the conjoining room. The prints present another format that Mark Booth devised for the art project *Spanish Still Life or A Large List of Merged Animals*: a calendar of days. The result is a calendar of wild beasts, marked observations or uncomfortable sensations that include for example, a sloth-toed cat or kisses that taste like boiled weeds. Once these words are read or heard, our minds immediately wander Booth's parallel universe of things and beings that might inhabit the dark crevices of the past, present and future.

Allison Peters Quinn
Director of Exhibitions



Image (c) Mark Booth 2008. Original image: Juan Sánchez Cotán, Spanish, 1561-1627, *Still Life with Game Fowl*, 1600/1603, Oil on canvas, 26 11/16 x 34 15/16 in. (67.8 x 88.7 cm), Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Leigh B. Block, 1955.1203, The Art Institute of Chicago. Photography © The Art Institute of Chicago.

Mark Booth has exhibited at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; Hudson Franklin, New York; Tony Wight/Bodybuilder & Sportsman, Chicago; Chicago Cultural Center; and The Contemporary Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii, among other venues across the country. His audio and performance work has been presented at the Overgaden Sound Art Festival, Copenhagen; Openport Festival, Chicago; Lincoln Park Conservatory, Chicago; Nova Art Fair, Chicago; and the Outer Ear Festival of Sound, Chicago. Booth was commissioned to produce audio scores for Molly Shanahan/Mad Shak's *My Name is Blackbird*, Chicago, and Eric Pold's *Success*, Copenhagen. Booth received a B.F.A. from the Rhode Island School of Design and an M.F.A. from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, where he currently teaches creative writing, painting, and sound.

Mark Booth would like to thank all of those who were involved in the project, as well as persons too numerous to mention including: Daniel Borzutzky, Lucy Cash, John Corbett, John Devylder, Robb Drinkwater, Sarah Guernsey, Lin Hixson, Luba Hoffman, Mark Jeffrey, Charles King, Malin Lindelow, Kathleen Odell, Collin Olan, Peter Rosenbloom, Lori Talley, Philip von Zweck, Antennae, Jubilat. Experimental Sound Studio, and Hyde Park Art Center.