

DOLBY CHADWICK GALLERY

Katina Huston

Nothing Comes From Nothing

May 1–31, 2014

Dolby Chadwick Gallery is pleased to announce *Nothing Comes From Nothing*, an exhibition of new ink on mylar drawings by San Francisco Bay Area artist Katina Huston. Huston's primary subject over the past decade has been shadows cast by objects—from bicycle wheels to musical instruments, glassware, and now, skeletons—hung from the studio ceiling. By casting light through these objects and drawing from their projection, Huston channels energy from a zipping bicycle, ascending scales, sparkling crystal, and the weightiness of bone "without actually naming that experience." Her handling compels the viewer into familiar objects stretched and distended out of visual recognition.

Because skeletons are loaded with meaning, there is the potential to misread Huston's drawings as morbid or Jerry Garcia-esque. Huston, however, is more concerned with processes of history and memory on physical objects, many of which carry the patina of their previous owner's experiences. When Huston was young, her father organized some of the first post-war underwater archeology expeditions. Following his death, her childhood home was littered with ephemera both ancient and less so: Etruscan fibulae mingled with a Stanford yearbook from 1928 while a Roman short sword made an unexpected bedfellow with bank books from Iowa. In this way, the skeleton is a placeholder for the presence of others passed in our day-to-day lives. It figures less as *momento mori*, that is, a warning that the viewer's end is not far off, but a friendly reminder of all the feet that have walked this path. Lively foliage overlays and sometimes submerges the figures, complicating the scene and forcing the viewer to choose between iconographies.

Unlike the bicycle and instrument drawings, many of Huston's skeleton drawings offer a single skeletal element as opposed to multiple overlapping forms. In these works, the figure interlaces with the unexpectedly vibrant shadows of flora and fauna. Swatches of colorful, patterned fabrics are rendered directly from the material to ground the shadowy contours of the skeletons and plant life. Diverse textures and densities play off each other, pushing some objects to the fore while occluding others. Huston explains:

"I have a choice. Do I want something to push against the shadows, or run over it? This choice either gives weight to the thing, or erases it. In the end, all we have are resolutions. Every time I make a decision, I force the viewer to let go of something and grab something else. The viewer chooses how these pieces resolve in the eye."

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In *Taxonomy 1* (2013), for instance, a colorless, abstracted ribcage rendered in India ink stretches across a sheet of mylar. The swirling and pooling inks further abstract the form, which appears fluid despite being bone dry. Pine branches in metallic silver wash through and over the bones, creating a visual tension that challenges the viewer to make sense of two entities of equal color value. Finally, blue and grey plaid fabrics sit on the page in opaque acrylic ink as things-in-themselves, defining and reinforcing the nearly colorless ribs that extend out to the edges of the composition. This vast range of textures, values, colors, tones, and light, play across Huston's sometimes very large drawings to solicit engaged looking from the viewer. "As in life, each new piece of information you learn about the world somehow undermines a belief you already held," Huston explains, "my drawings mimic this process and push the viewer to recognize their own process in thinking."

Katina Huston was born and raised in San Francisco, California. She earned her B.A. in History of Fine Arts from New York University followed by her M.F.A. from Mills College, Oakland. In addition to exhibiting both nationally and internationally, Huston's work can be found in the permanent collection of the Achenbach Collection at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, de Young & Legion of Honor; the Yale University Art Gallery; and Wynn Casino, Las Vegas.

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Katina Huston

EDUCATION

- 1995 MFA Mills College, Oakland, CA
1984 BA New York University, WSUC, New York, NY

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2014 *Nothing Comes From Nothing*, Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco, CA
2012 *Goldberg Variations*, Chase Young Gallery, Boston, MA
2011 *Big Noise*, Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco, CA
2008 *Field of Vision*, Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco, CA
Mechanical Repeat, Davidson Contemporary, Seattle, WA
2007 *Claustrophobia*, Jancar Gallery, Los Angeles, CA September
Friends, Michael Rosenthal Contemporary Art Redwood City, CA
Inaugural Exhibition, Donna Seager Gallery, San Rafael, CA
2006 *Cyclone*, Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco, CA
Race, Edith Caldwell Gallery, Sausalito, CA
2005 *Narrative Ceramic*, V. Breier Gallery, San Francisco, CA
Shadow Series, Bryan Ohno Gallery, Seattle, WA
2004 *Tre Donne*, Flatfile Galleries, Chicago, IL
2002 *Katina Huston*, Art Resource Group, Santa Monica, CA
Each Other, Flatfile, Chicago, IL
2001 *Botanica*, Project Room, Flat File, Chicago, IL
Shadow Series, Surco, Los Angeles, CA
Botanica, Flatfile Contemporary, Chicago, IL
1997 *Petals*, Lynn House Gallery, Pittsburgh, CA
Small Works of Little Importance, Danville Fine Arts, Danville, CA
1995 *Katina Huston*, Second Street Gallery, Charlottesville, VA

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2012 *Chain Reaction: Artists Consider the Bicycle*, de Saisset Museum, CA
2011 *Black and White*, Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco, CA
Shadow Drawing, Chase Young Gallery, Boston, MA
Geared, Sun Valley Art Center, Ketchum, ID
2010 *Content*, Jacana Gallery, Vancouver, Canada
Inaugural Exhibition,
2009 *On Paper*, Jenkins Johnson, New York, NY
West Coast Drawings VIII, Koplín Del Río, Culver City, CA
Entwined, Jancar Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Content, Jacana Gallery, Vancouver, BC Canada

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- Katina Huston*, Anne Reed Gallery, Ketchum, ID
- 2008 *Drawing*, Francine Seders Gallery Seattle, WA
- 2005 *The Other Voice*, SoMArts, San Francisco, CA
R.C. Gallery, Portland, OR
Alchemy 2, Oakland Art Gallery, Oakland, CA
- 2004 *Group Show*, Bryan Ohno Gallery, Seattle, WA
- 2003 *Shoebox Sculpture*, Gallery at the University of Hawaii, Hilo
- 2002 *Program Highlights*, AIR Gallery, NorCal, San Francisco, CA
Katina Huston, DJR International Arts, New York, NY
Refuse/Reuse/Redux, Museum of Art at MacPherson Center, Santa Cruz, CA
Concept to Object, Cade Fine Arts, Arnold, MD
North American Sculpture, Foothill Art Center, Boulder, CO
Operating Systems, Susan Cummins Gallery, Mill Valley, CA
- 2001 *Katina Huston*, Tor Gallery, Kobe, Japan
Shadow Series, DJR International Arts, Newport Beach, CA
- 2000 *Faculty Exhibition*, Museum at California State University, Hayward, CA
Gallery Artists, River Gallery, St Paul, MN
inadequacy of words Benedicta Art Center, St. Joseph, MN
- 1999 *Solomon Project*, Atlanta, GA
Needle Art, Bedford Gallery, Walnut Creek, CA
Fresh Paint, Culver City, CA
Faculty Exhibition, Museum at California State University, Hayward, CA
- 1998 *Small Works*, Susan Cummins Gallery, Mill Valley, CA
Fresh Paint, Culver City, CA
- 1997 *New to the Gallery*, Susan Cummins Gallery, Mill Valley, CA
- 1996 *Haines Gallery*, San Francisco, CA
Susan Cummins Gallery, Mill Valley, CA
California Annual, San Bernardino County Museum, Redlands, CA
- 1995 *Lubbock Fine Art Center*, Lubbock, TX
Mills College Museum, Oakland, CA
Birchstone Gallery, Egg Harbor, WI
Susan Cummins Gallery, Mill Valley, CA
Gallery 1042, Rockland, IL
California Annual, 3-D arts Berkeley Art Center, Berkeley, CA
Mills College Museum, Oakland, CA
- 1994 *Crocker-Kingsley California Annual*, Crocker Fine Arts Museum, Sacramento, CA
- 1993 *Issues of O*, Orange County Center for Contemporary Art, Santa Ana, CA
Matrix Gallery, Sacramento, CA
- 1992 *Headlands Center for the Arts*, Sausalito, CA

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ARTICLES AND REVIEWS

What's up in Boston, Area Art Galleries, The Boston Chronicle, October 23, 2012
Shadows of Music, Kenneth Baker, San Francisco Chronicle, February 12, 2011
Galleries: Seeing into the Shadows, Cate McQuaid, Boston Globe, May 20, 2010
Katina Huston at Dolby Chadwick, Aimee C Reed, Artweek, May 2008 vol 39 issue 4
Galleries Kenneth Baker, San Francisco Chronicle, March 29, 2008
Letting go of the handlebars..., Kenneth Baker, San Francisco Chronicle, June 10, 2006
Wheelism, Hiya Swanhuysen, SFWeekly, June 2006
Narrative Ceramic, Ceramics Monthly, November 2005
Shadow Drawing; x 4, (images) Harpers, December 2005
eBay Art Project, Artweek, volume 36 Issue 9, November 2005
Katina Huston at Bryan Ohno, Andrew Engleston, ARTnews, vol 104 number 6 June 2005
Painter's Eye Ponders science..., Kenneth Baker, San Francisco Chronicle, May 9, 2005
Visual Arts: Katina Huston, Seattle Weekly, March 23, 2005
San Francisco artist on spiritual migration, Judy Wagonfeld, Seattle Post-Intelligencer
March 29, 2005
Prarie Smoke, ArtNet, New York, NY May 2004
Katina Huston, Asahi Shimbun "Our Town" Kobe, Japan July 2001
Katina Huston, Kobe Shimbun Japan, July 17, 2001
Katina Huston, Works and Conversations, February 2001
Improvisation for the Future, Businessweek, Newsletter, May 13, 1998
Small Things of Little Importance, Contra Costa Times Contra Costa, CA August 1997
Petals: Lynn House plants its new exhibit, Antioch Press Antioch, CA May 1997
Evolution of Trust and Distrust, Sgraffitto Marina del Rey, CA, Summer 1997
Invitation to Enter the Mind, Press Express, San Bernardino, CA, August 1996
Creative Process Explored, Victor Valley Daily Press, San Bernardino, CA August 1996
Conversation with Stroud and Huston, Sgraffitto_Marina del Rey, CA Spring 1996
Day and Night, SF Weekly San Francisco, CA December 28, 19

AWARDS & ALLOCATES

2012 Visiting Artist, American Academy in Rome, Italy
2010 Artist In Residence, Vermont Studio Center, VT
2002-present Contributing Editor, Works+Conversations, Oakland, CA
2003-09 Chair, Alameda Public Art Advisory Commission, CA
Barbara Deming Award, Brooklyn, New York
2001 Award of Merit, California Works
1995 Juror's Award Berkeley Art Center
Award of Excellence, California Works

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TEACHING HISTORY

- 2005-09 Lecturer California College of Art Oakland, CA
- 2004-07 Lecturer JFK University, Berkeley, CA
- 2001-02 Lecturer Saint Mary's College, Moraga, CA
- 1998-00 Head of Ceramics, California State University, Hayward, CA
- 2001 Visiting Artist/Lecturer St. John's University, Collegeville, MN
- 1991 Visiting Artist/Lecturer St. John's University, Collegeville, MN
- 1988-89 Teacher's Assistant; University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

GRANTS

- Alumnae Award, Mills College, Oakland, CA
- General Mills arts residency award, St. Paul, MN
- Arts Recovery Grant, Northern California Grantmakers, San Francisco, CA

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

- Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, CT
- Achenbach Collection, California Palace of the Legion of Honor, San Francisco, CA
- Nancy Silverman, Gallery C, Laguna, CA