

WASHINGTON ADAMS

For Immediate Release

THREE EMERGING LOS ANGELES ARTISTS FEATURED IN DEBUT EXHIBITION AT PACIFIC DESIGN CENTER

- **What:** *our together works*, the collaborative debut exhibition of Claire Cregan, Michelle Johnson, Elizabeth Mauceli. Presented by Washington Adams in partnership with the Pacific Design Center.
- **When:** March 2 – 31, 2010. Tuesday – Friday 11 – 4:30, or by appointment.
- **Where:** Washington Adams at the Pacific Design Center, 8687 Melrose Avenue, B231, West Hollywood, Calif.
- **What's New:** The exhibition explores the impact of a shared studio on the work of three emerging Los Angeles artists. It includes individual works that capture each artist's vision as well as collaborative works -- mixed media assemblages that incorporate, reinterpret and advance the individual visions.
- **Reception:** Meet the artists. Thursday, March 25, 2010, 5 p.m. – 8 p.m. (With support of Otis College of Art and Design Alumni Office.)



Above image:
together work (1), 2010, Claire Cregan, Michelle Johnson, Elizabeth Mauceli, Mixed media

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WEST HOLLYWOOD, Calif., March 1, 2010 – *our together works*, a debut exhibition that explores the effect of shared studio space and its impact on three emerging artists, opens tomorrow. Presented by Washington Adams in partnership with the Pacific Design Center, it showcases the work of Claire Cregan, Michelle Johnson and Elizabeth Mauceli, three young artists who are continuing a co-operative studio practice that began before their graduation from Otis College of Art and Design last spring.

Our together works describes the forms that these three artists have created through the combination of elements of each of their practices into singular works and collaborative assemblages. As importantly, the title of the show refers to their joint studio practice that, even when it results in work attributed to an individual artist, reflects the supportive verbal and non-verbal conversations that take place when three artists work side by side.

“There are truly exciting things happening in this shared studio,” according to Lucas Reiner, curator for Washington Adams at the Pacific Design Center. “*our together works* not only celebrates the tradition of collaboration between artists, but is also fascinating for the effect this collaboration has had on the individual artists’ work.

“I’m drawn to the openness and fragility embodied in much of this work. The vulnerability of the collaborative process and the suspension of judgment that the collective spirit requires is in full view,” he continued. “By deflecting the desire for aesthetic resolution, new perspectives emerge in *our together works* that ask for a different kind of consideration. The process is as integral as the result”

Each of the artists brings a different background, materials and mental construct to the *our together works* project:

- Claire Cregan’s current work consists of multiple small irregularly rectangular woodcuts. Color that references the natural world contrasts with architectural shapes and nailed up on the wall or lying flat, Cregan is interested in the art object as a physical, representational and intellectual entity that a viewer must negotiate with. The piecing together of her current work reflects the desire to pick and choose the best characteristics of a given piece and provides an obvious opportunity for collaboration with artists that were already working co-operatively together.

- Michelle Johnson works with the basic building blocks for creation by using materials including cardboard, wood and plaster. Readily available, these materials render her work relevant in the current push to go back to basics. Scale creates bodily relationships that necessitate an interaction. Johnson is interested in the physicality of her objects and the interstitial spaces created between her work, other objects and the viewers who form a unique network of people involved as participants, supporters and collaborators.
- Elizabeth Mauceli's works are a series of abstractions made by means of chance and systematic actions. Acrylic ink and paper collage are carefully placed on and removed from a nonabsorbent paper resulting in a surface that fluctuates between flowing and rough. The shapes and gestures repeat forms from the artist's day-to-day life, in clothing, landscapes and byproducts of other projects. Mauceli explores how physical alteration creates and transforms our experience through abstraction. This physical alteration provides a natural platform for collaboration and opens all of the works involved to a transformative process.

our together works. March 1st -31st 2010. Washington Adams at Pacific Design Center, Suite B231, 8687 Melrose Avenue, West Hollywood, Calif. Hours: 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Tues - Fri or by appointment. Reception with the artists: Thurs, March 25th, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Washington Adams is a collaborative curatorial project begun by Los Angeles artist Lucas Reiner. In the exhibition space at the Pacific Design Center he presents contemporary Los Angeles-based artists with the goal of further expanding issues concerning art and design. To learn more about Washington Adams or for images, visit washingtonadams.com

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Note to Editors: A high-resolution digital original of the attached photo is available on request.