



Cassilhaus Gallery Chapel Hill, NC January 29 - May 31, 2017

## **EXQUISITE CORPSE**

Exhibition ideas often organically present themselves. Early last year, our friend Diana Gaston, the Executive Director of the Tamarind Institute, a fine art press in Albuquerque, New Mexico, let us know about a portfolio of eighteen lithographic prints from her press entitled Exquisite Corpse. Over a period of fifteen years, Tamarind visiting artists waiting "on press" were invited to participate in a game of exquisite corpse by creating renderings of heads, torsos, or legs without knowledge of what other collaborating artists were producing. We were entranced and added the prints to our collection. The moment they arrived I knew we needed to do a show.

Exquisite Corpse (or, *Cadavre Exquis*) was a Surrealists' parlour game in which players write or draw in turn on a sheet of paper, fold it to conceal part of their writing or drawing, and then pass it on to the next player for a further contribution. The name is derived from one round of the game that resulted in the nonsensical phrase, *Le cadaver exquis boira le vin nouveau*, "The exquisite corpse will drink the new wine." Since its beginning, artists, as well as writers, have drawn from the concept of the game to create collaborative and fantastical drawings, poetry, and prose.

The Tamarind portfolio is a variant of the game and inspired me to mine our own collection to unearth hidden "corpses." The Cassilhaus Collection is portrait heavy and I was able to look at each piece with fresh eyes. It was a delightful challenge to find correlations and juxtapositions, in content, tone and form to create full sets that force us to look again at familiar images with new meaning. Needless to say the artists were not complicit in this activity!

While in the planning stages of this show we visited The Penland School of Crafts in western North Carolina and discovered the collaborative work of Mercedes Jelinek and Jess Rees. Their 'conversations,' as they call them, start with scouting and visiting locations together. Mercedes then makes a series of images and sends a selection of printed photographs to Jess to choose from. Jess and Mercedes continue to pass the photos back and forth, now beginning to remove parts of the images and adding new details in their own ways. The resulting photographs have many layers of acrylic paint to conceal parts of the photo, as well as gold leaf additions to bring attention to particular architectural elements left within the frame. This volleying continues until both are satisfied with the final print—creating a different sort of exquisite corpse.

This is the first exhibition I have solo curated at Cassilhaus and I hope you have as much fun with it as I did. This show would not have been possible without the patient and diligent work of the indispensable Jessina Leonard. Thanks are due also to Milli Apelgren and Fred Hutchinson. And of course, this show, or anything else of worth at Cassilhaus, would not have been realized without the heart and soul of Cassilhaus, my super creative husband, Frank Konhaus.

Thank you,

Ellen Cassilly January 2017



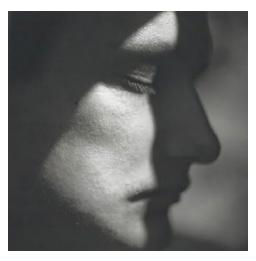
Serpent
Valeriy Gerlovin and Rimma Gerlovina
Russian
Chromogenic Print
1989



Small Apples
Kristoffer Albrecht
Finnish
Toned Gelatin Silver Print
1984



Septima with Tadpoles
Deborah Luster
American
Toned Gelatin Silver Print
1993



Philipp, 2000 Mona Kuhn Brazilian American Vintage Gelatin Silver Print 2000



Nikki's Hands Mona Kuhn Brazilian American Vintage Gelatin Silver Print 1998



X #6
Robert Stivers
American
Gelatin Silver Print
2003



Deep Anita Wolfenden Swedish Archival Watercolor Paper in Lucite Box 2008



White Slip Meredith Brickell American Earthenware 2008



Draw #4 Marc Maiorana American Steel 2007



Valle Crucis, NC, 1981 John Rosenthal American Vintage Gelatin Silver Print 1981

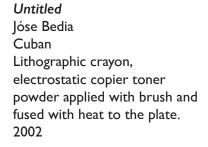


Untitled (from Natural Findings Series)
Cheryle St. Onge
American
Archival Pigment Print
2012



Untitled Brian Gaberman American Gelatin Silver Print 1999







Untitled
Yoshimi Hayashi
Japanese
A lithograph drawn by the artist and printed in magenta from aluminum.
2002



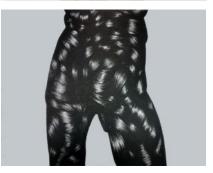
Untitled
Mary Snowden
American
A lithograph drawn by the
artist and printed in black from
aluminum.
2000



Untitled
Liliana Porter
Argentinian
A lithograph drawn by the artist and printed in black from aluminum.
2000



bear breasted
Gendron Jensen
American
A one-run, one-color lithograph
drawn by the artist.
2014-2015



Untitled
Toyin Odutola
Nigerian
A one-run, one-color lithograph
drawn by the artist.
2014-2015



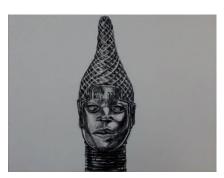
Alien Chick
Andrea Dezsö
American
A four-color lithograph drawn
by the arist.
2000



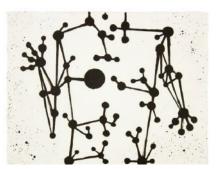
Untitled
Osmeivy Ortega Pacheco
Cuban
A one-run, one-color lithograph
drawn by the artist.
2015



Untitled
Victor Goler
Argentinian
A two-color lithograph drawn by the artist.
2000



Benin Head
Robert Pruitt
American
A one-run, one color lithograph
drawn by the artist.
2014



Untitled
Larry Brown
American
A lithograph drawn by the artist and printed from aluminum.
2001



Untitled
Nick Cave
American
A one-run, one-color lithograph
drawn by the artist.
2015



Slightly Ahead of the Seasons
William Wiley
American
A lithograph drawn by the
artist and printed in green from
aluminum.
2001-2002



Untitled
Susan Davidoff
American
A collage and two-color
lithographic drawn by the artist.
2000



Untitled
Hayal Pozanti
Turkish
A two-run, two-color lithograph drawn by the artist.
2014



Untitled
Enrique Martinez Celaya
Cuban
A lithograph drawn by the artist.
2014



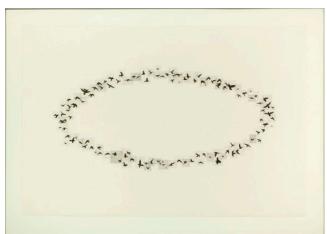
Untitled
Liu Hung
Chinese
A two-color lithograph
2000-2001



Untitled
Elena Climent
Mexican
A lithograph drawn by the artist
2001-2002



Birth of Aphrodite
Valeriy Gerlovin and Rimma Gerlovina
Russian
Ektacolor C-print
1992



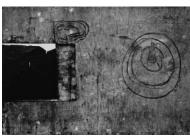
seeing the song Marie Navarre American Film and thread on paper 2004



Circurlo Vicioso (Vicious Circle)
Elsa Mora
Cuban
Imbue print on handmade watercolor paper
2003



Wind #2 Lauren Semivan American Archival Pigment Print 2012



Bronx 1, 1950
Aaron Siskind
American
Gelatin Silver Print
1950 / printed later



Untitled 11.89-6 Igor Savchenko Belarusian Vintage Toned Gelatin Silver Print 1989



Sudanese, Cairo Sean Kernan American Toned Gelatin Silver Print 2005



Untitled, 1998 (from the Deep South series) Sally Mann American Toned Gelatin Silver Print 1998



Women's Studies Julie Speed American Hand-colored polymer gravure with chine collé 2005



Burkas, Sultan Ahmet Parki, Instanbul Dan Gottlieb American Archival Pigment Print 2010



Retired Worker Eve Arnold American Dye Transfer Print 1979



Kalia and TV Westchester 2002 Michael Prince American C Print 2002



Found Portrait: Man 29, 2006 Binh Danh Vietnamese Chlorophyll Print and Resin 2006



Night Blooming Cereus
Sally Mann
American
Toned Gelatin Silver Contact Print
1988



Two Hands
Jack Spencer
American
Toned Gelatin Silver Print
1995



MoneyGram
Ippy Patterson
American
Archival Pigment Print
2013



Flowers: A Guide to American Wildflowers
Doug Keyes
American
Dye Coupler Print
1999



Inside the View #17 Helen Sear British Chromogenic Lambda Print 2006



Neil Selkirk's Developer Tray, 2010 John Cyr American Archival Pigment Print 2010



Cy's Slippers Frank Hunter American Archival Inkjet Print 2010



Smerinthus Saliceti Jo Whaley American Archival Pigment Print 2010



Margaret's Rhubarb Susan Worsham American Archival Pigment Print 2008



Chicago, 1960 Harry Callahan American Gelatin Silver Print 1960 / printed later



Structure Drawing Two Ippy Patterson American Ink on Arches Paper 2005



Tanzania, Benaco, Rwandan Refugees Eli Reed American Digital C Print 1995/2015



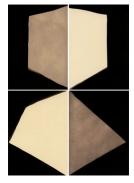
#1142 from Nakazora
Masao Yamamoto
Japanese
Toned Gelatin Silver Print
2005



Untitled
Diana Vallera
American
Photo Emulsion on Canvas
1999



Mah-jong Self Portrait Ippy Patterson American Archival Pigment Print 2014



Gevaert Gevarto 47 Allison Rossiter American Four Gelatin Silver Prints 2013



Liberty Under Fire (RTNYC 77) James Fee American Toned Gelatin Silver Print 1997



Untitled Holyoke, 2000 Mitch Epstein American C Print 2000



Noble Savages Marguerite Kahrl American Offset Print 2013



Cup Elijah Gowin American Pigmented Inkjet Print 2002



Miss Appleton's Shoes II
Olivia Parker
American
Vintage Split Toned Gelatin Silver Contact Print
1976/1981





Rival Shoes
Ralph Steiner
American
Gelatin Silver Contact Print
1924/1981

Mrs. Dalloway by Virginia Woolf Heather Gordon American Ink on Paper 2009



Two Pears, Cushing, ME
Paul Caponigro
American
Vintage Gelatin Silver Contact Print
1999

## Mercedes Jelinek and Jess Rees Conversations



Untitled
Mercedes Jelinek and Jess Rees
American/American
Archival Pigment Print with Acrylic Paint and Gold Leaf
2016
\$1200



Untitled
Mercedes Jelinek and Jess Rees
American/American
Archival Pigment Print with Acrylic Paint and Gold Leaf
2016
\$1200



Untitled
Mercedes Jelinek and Jess Rees
American/American
Archival Pigment Print with Acrylic Paint and Gold Leaf
2016
\$900