



International Center of Photography

media release

Contact: Communications Department
212.857.0045 info@icp.org

ICP–Bard Program in Advanced Photographic Studies Presents MFA Thesis Exhibition

Opening reception: Friday, April 1, 7:00–9:00 pm

Exhibition on view at the School: April 1 through May 22, 2011; Monday–Sunday, 10:00 am–6:00 pm
1114 Avenue of the Americas at 43rd Street, New York, NY 10036

New York, NY...The ICP–Bard Program in Advanced Photographic Studies announces a thesis exhibition by the nine members of its 2011 graduating class: **Arielle Bier, Ame Curtiss, Hernease Davis, Olimpia Ferrari, Curtis Hamilton, Michelle Leedy, Garret Miller, Clark Nelson, and Sayaka Taninokuchi.**

Investigating virtually every aspect of the medium ranging from traditional black-and-white to the new technology of digital imaging, students examine the multiple forms through which ideas are translated and communicated by photography in its changing role in contemporary culture.

The exhibition will be on view from April 1 through May 22, 2011, at the School of the International Center of Photography, 1114 Avenue of the Americas at 43rd Street, in New York City, from 10:00 am–6:00 pm Monday through Sunday. There will be an opening reception on Friday, April 1, from 7:00–9:00 pm.

“In this program, we’ve witnessed a sea change in the interests and attitudes of young photographers. Photographic tools once represented a self-mystifying hurdle that allowed people to imagine that once they understood the mechanics of the medium they faced no further challenges to calling themselves photographers. The combination of digital photographic tools and computer based social networks have radically altered the societal role of the photograph—today, everyone owns a camera. We now explore the role of those who strive to deepen their experience of photography through study and practice. The students in this exhibition focus on the photographic encounter itself, asking what is it that we can learn from it—about the past, the gaps between ourselves and other people, the possibilities for urban connection, the fraying edges of relationships familial and romantic, motion of pictures themselves through our conscious and unconscious minds. These encounters—painful, perplexing and ultimately joyous, leave us excited for all that future holds,” stated artist and educator Nayland Blake, who chairs the program.

About the Photographers and Their Work

Arielle Bier

Symptom Neomatic



Arielle Bier pushes at the boundaries of individual and collective experience, and thinks of her work as if it was a torrid love affair—a place to focus passions, manifest the flight of the imagination, explore desires, to give and receive. An interdisciplinary artist, thinker, and producer, she works with photography, video, performance, sculpture, and multi-media installation.

Having received her BA from the Gallatin School of Individualized Studies at New York University in 2005, Arielle has also been involved with many collective projects, including The Miss Rockaway Armada and The Swimming Cities of Serenissima. She is currently producing performance/installation work with her sister Adina as AABIER.

Ame Curtiss

Imperial



Ame Curtiss is interested in the insurmountable accumulation of not only her images, but of the memories and material objects that surround her. Her thesis show, “I Am Your Witness,” addresses how her early life is revealed in current personal experiences and relationships, as they manifest through her pictures and the subsequent edit.

After receiving her early photographic training in Southern California, Ame has been in New York for over four years now. She is passionate about train yards, construction sites, old buildings, and animals—including her Pit Bull named Nova.

Hernease Davis

AKA



Hernease Davis’ work spans across a range of interests, including personal explorations of family dynamics; her own obsessions; audio installation; and text as imagery.

She was born in Los Angeles, and earned her BA in Biology from Swarthmore College.

Olimpia Ferrari

Peter has a woman on his mind



Olimpia Ferrari's new body of work is a never-ending re-arrangement of photographs. It is a search for memories filtered through her desire to uncover what they represent, and to relocate them towards one another.

Born and raised in Rome, she first studied Political Science. Then deciding to pursue her dream of working with photography, Olimpia came to New York and completed the ICP General Studies Program.

Curtis Hamilton

Chicken

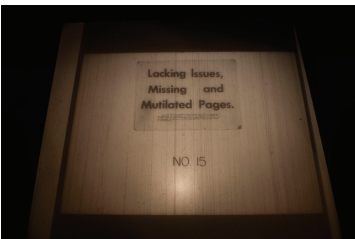


Curtis Hamilton sifts through junk mail, avenges a credit scam, fights a cold, pays a parking ticket, causes a traffic accident, and scrapes by. He navigates his interactions with money, bureaucracy, and his own consumption through a conscientious use of photographs and writing.

Born in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, in 1983, Curtis earned a BFA in Photography from the School of Visual Arts in 2006. He currently lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.

Michelle Leedy

Lacking Issues



“One night we saw my handsome neighbor standing shirtless in his window. I think he was shaving, but mainly he was just standing there, looking handsome. Sometimes I try to stand in my window looking handsome, but rarely am I shirtless. I hold to the idea that I am invisible because the sun does not shine directly into my apartment. But sometimes I hope I will look out my window and see a note on his, with an email address...because telephones are scary.” Michelle Leedy is a native Texan who lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

Garret Miller

Proposal for a trip to Arapaho Glacier



Through his photographs and installations, Garret Miller is looking to articulate the three-dimensional landscape that occurs when conflating time. Experimenting with different mediums collected from both everyday life and the outdoors, he constructs places where memory of a past life and indications of an unknown future coexist. An immersive setting is achieved through the mirroring of the self and the object.

He was born in New York in the dead of winter, and having seen the frontier of America, now lives and works in Queens.

Clark Nelson

Untitled (tallgrass prairie preserve, ok)



This summer Clark Richard Nelson spent eight weeks driving ten thousand miles across the United States and back. His most recent body of work draws on images and artifacts from this trip exploring the country.

Clark was born and raised in New York City, and received his BA from Kenyon College in 1998. Since graduating, he has worked in editorial and advertising photography.

Sayaka Taninokuchi

Between



Sayaka Taninokuchi's video work is based on her observations of her daily life and of the world in which she lives. Her digital footage serves as the inspiration to make videos which are reflective of a mixture of fictional and personal narratives, performance, experimental abstractions, and documentary forms of video art.

Born and raised in Japan, Sayaka received her BFA at State University of New York, Purchase College in 2006. In 2009, she was an artist in residence at Sitka Center for Art and Ecology in Oregon. She has exhibited in the United States and internationally in several group exhibitions.

About the ICP-Bard Program in Advanced Photographic Studies

Founded in 2002, the ICP-Bard MFA Program is committed to working with students to re-imagine the field of photography and reinvigorate the role of the photographer in the world. It offers a rigorous, interdisciplinary program that approaches the study of photography through an integrated curriculum of history, theory, and practice. The curriculum brings together Bard and ICP faculty, visiting artists, and accomplished students to actively engage the critical issues facing photography, the fine arts, and technology in a vibrant and stimulating academic environment. The two-year MFA graduate program utilizes the resources of ICP's museum team and its extensive collection, in addition to the wide range of workshop offerings already in place at its school.

For further information, please contact ICP Education at 212.857.0001 or visit www.icp.org/school.

###