

The Drawing Center

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THE DRAWING CENTER ANNOUNCES

Levity *Selections Spring 2007*

Main Gallery, 35 Wooster Street

February 24 – March 31, 2007

Opening Reception: Friday, February 23, 6 – 8 pm

Gallery Talk: Saturday, February 24, 2 pm

New York, January 15, 2007 – From February 24 to March 31, 2007, The Drawing Center will present *Levity: Selections Spring 2007*, an exhibition exploring lightness in both material and metaphoric terms featuring fourteen emerging artists selected from the Viewing Program. In these drawings, the term “levity” can imply a “light touch” through the use of lightweight or light-colored materials as well as a sense of humor or irreverence. The practice of the artists in *Levity* ranges from imprinting simple observations of daily life to creating flights of fantasy and visually humorous scenarios. Some generate levity by manipulating the form of lightweight materials while others work with light as a material for drawing. Participating in the exhibition are **Esteban Alvarez, Ingólfur Arnarsson, Norma-Jean Bothmer, Anne Daems, Ivana Franke, Bill Gerhard, Kate Joranson, Irene Kopelman, Jiha Moon, Mio Olsson, Michelle Oosterbaan, Lisa Perez, Eduardo Santiere, and Rachel Perry Welty.**



Eduardo Santiere, Detail of *SN16*, 2006. Colored pencil and graphite on paper, 30 x 22 1/4 inches. Photo by Gustavo Lowry.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

In a move he compares to Viennese Actionism, **Esteban Alvarez** (Buenos Aires, Argentina) demonstrates a sense of the absurd as he unveils on video a drawing he found on his living room floor made by his cat. This irreverent piece continues his work on a favorite theme: the frequent discrepancies between context and message. **Ingólfur Arnarsson** (Reykjavík, Iceland) uses system and structure to create subtle pencil drawings that, depending on their presentation, range from emphatic spatial punctuation to near invisible inflection. For *Levity*, his minute pencil marks create understated texture on inconspicuous squares of paper adhered to the wall. For her “Pooh Bear” series, **Norma-Jean Bothmer** (New York, NY)

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draws inspiration from the large collection of stuffed animals and dolls in her studio, registering a wide variety of views of a teddy bear. With just a few strokes of colored pencil, **Anne Daems** (Brussels, Belgium) comments insightfully on everyday situations and objects in her multiple small-scale pencil



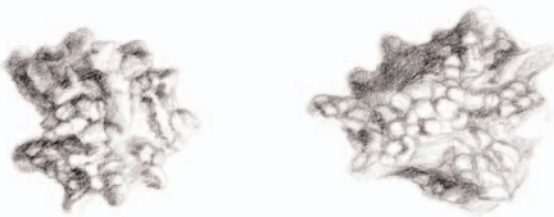
Esteban Alvarez, video still from *Brus (wool drawing)*, 2005. DVD, 40 seconds.

drawings illuminated by humorous captions, exploring both inexplicable and overlooked moments. **Ivana Franke** (Zagreb, Croatia) has long experimented with transparent materials such as clear tape and luminous fabric, relating them to human psychology and the physicality of the body. For *Levity*, she will create a new installation invoking these concerns through drawing with light. **Bill Gerhard** (Brooklyn, NY) creates photogenic drawings by exposing dark sheets of construction paper to sunlight. By using light itself as a medium, Gerhard has created a subtle visual language that balances scientific experimentation and chance. The art of **Kate Joranson** (Pittsburgh, PA) deals with drawing by unconventional means. In *Levity*, she will drag a cinder block through powder, leaving a trail as delicate as the block is crude. From this disproportionate action, a sense of absurdity will emerge. **Irene Kopelman** (Amsterdam, the Netherlands) explores the act of copying by imitating stray marks on a wall and delving into research archives. Her finely rendered pencil drawings of microfossils make particles visible that otherwise would never be seen by the naked eye. **Jiha Moon** (Atlanta, GA) provides sly observations on traditional art genres through a skillful drawing practice that combines the styles and imagery of Western Pop art and Asian landscapes. Here she presents four new drawings from her “Mythscape” series. **Mio Olsson** (Brooklyn, NY) gathers



Norma-Jean Bothmer, *Pooh Bear I-XII*, 2006. Caran d'Ache pencil on paper, 12 drawings, 22 x 22 inches each.

together arrangements of “silly things” in her three-dimensional drawings. Her acute vision encourages the viewer to take a new point of view on relationships between items with a “family resemblance.” **Michelle Oosterbaan** (St. Louis, MO) concocts large-scale drawing compositions with fantastical verve. Her nimble pencil and gouache lines balance and float in a tranquil, vast expanse of paper. **Lisa Perez** (Providence, RI) fashions drawing cut-



Irene Kopelman, *B 8631* from the series “Two Points of View,” 2005. Pencil on paper, 5 1/2 x 2 9/16 inches.

outs of a variety of colors and line thicknesses that invent intersections between foreground and background. For this exhibition, she will arrange a lighthearted vignette in space by inserting paper directly into the wall. **Eduardo Santiere** (Buenos Aires, Argentina) draws ever-evolving combinations of lines and minute points of color that are permeated with lyrical motion and joy. Santiere evokes

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biomorphism with the slightest move of his pencil tip. **Rachel Perry Welty** (Boston, MA) constructs sinewy cosmic swirls out of tiny produce stickers. Welty here continues her work with unconventional methods, including flour and children's toys, to convey a breadth of possible realizations of drawing.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

On **Saturday, February 24 at 2 pm**, The Drawing Center will present a free **gallery talk** with several artists from the *Levity* exhibition and curator Katherine Carl.



Video still from *The Laughing Club of India*, 2000. Image courtesy of Mirabai Films.

The Laughing Club of India, an award-winning documentary by Mira Nair and Adam Bartos, paints a portrait of laughing clubs, first started eleven years ago by Dr. Madan Kataria, the founder of Laughter Yoga and a physician from Mumbai, India. The **film screening on Tuesday, March 13 at 6:30 pm** will be followed by a laughter workshop led by **Vishwa Prakash**, a student of Dr. Kataria and the founder of several laughing clubs in the U.S. and Asia. Admission is \$5/free for members.

In anticipation of National Poetry Month, The Drawing Center will host a **poetry reading on Tuesday, March 27 at 6:30 pm** featuring the works of two important Americans known for revitalizing poetry as a ground for serious play: **John Ashbery** and the late **Kenneth Koch**. Ashbery will read from his new collection, *A Worldly Country*. **Ron Padgett**, Koch's friend and fellow teacher, will read from a new selection of Koch's work, which he edited. This event is co-presented with the Academy of American Poets. Admission is \$5/free for members.



John Ashbery and Kenneth Koch, 1994. Image courtesy of Dorothy Alexander from the Academy of American Poets Archive.

PUBLICATION

Levity: Selections Spring 2007 will be accompanied by ***Drawing Papers 67***, a thirty-two page edition of The Drawing Center's publication series. *Drawing Papers 67* will contain black-and-white images of the works in the exhibition, along with texts by the artists.

CREDITS

Levity: Selections Spring 2007 has been made possible, in part, with the support of The Greenwall Foundation, the Trust for Mutual Understanding, and the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts.

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HOURS & ACCESSIBILITY

Gallery Hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10 am to 6 pm and Saturday, 11 am to 6 pm (closed Sundays and Mondays). The Drawing Center is wheelchair accessible.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Drawing Center is the only not-for-profit U.S. museum to focus solely on the exhibition of drawings, both historical and contemporary. It was established in 1977 to provide opportunities for emerging and under-recognized artists; to demonstrate the significance and diversity of drawings throughout history; and to stimulate public dialogue on issues of art and culture.

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