

Open Sessions 2

Open Sessions is a two-year program that incubates new ideas about drawing, developed collaboratively by participating artists and curated by Nova Benway and Lisa Sigal. Open Sessions provides an extended opportunity for artists to work together in planning exhibitions and events, creating their own context around the medium of drawing. *Open Sessions 2* is the second of six group shows that will take place 2014 - 2016. A Main Gallery exhibition, reflecting the program as a whole, will be presented in the summer of 2015.

Many Worlds is a collaborative folio project developed by Matt Neff and Adam Shecter, consisting of an edition of prints from each artist in *Open Sessions 2*. At The Drawing Center, visitors are invited to fill out an address label in the gallery and a print will be mailed to the address of their choosing. Each print is sealed into an envelope printed with fragments of the editioned images.

Mona Sharma's *After "A"* is a comic book made by the artist for her best friend. Sharma loves this friend very much, who nevertheless has an extraordinary talent for making their relationship unbearably painful. Sharma's friend has always had an unusual obsession with Archie Comics; this comic book, which will be the first in a series, is a collection of their personal stories that they both can look back at whenever times get tough.

Arturs Virtmanis's *WHAT HATH GOD WROUGHT!?* is a sinking vessel, filled heavy with hopes, adrift in a sea of cryptic messages: a tragic wall of Morse code-like dots and lines (the building blocks of drawing), and scrolls of obscure texts. Everything is steeped in messianism, melancholia and black carbon dust. It is a vaudevillian show that casts disparate and unwilling characters like Fernando Pessoa, with his ever-unfinished scribbles on melancholia; Piranesi, with his albums of romantically etched ruins of Rome; Morse, with his messianic aspirations; and fairy tales of pirates and their castaway ships... Save Our Ships, Save Our Souls...

Naho Taruishi's *Louis Aimé Augustin Le Prince* depicts the patent of the first motion camera. The inventor, Le Prince, mysteriously vanished shortly before his creation was unveiled to the public. Correspondingly, drawn images of the films *Ugetsu Monogatari - 96 minutes* and *The Woman in the Dunes* emerge from the surreal experiences of characters in each film after they depart from their daily existences. Together the drawings evoke disappearances in real and fictional stories.

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Matt Neff's *Untitled* is made from a discarded incubator that takes on the abstracted sculptural image of a lifeless form on the ground, flooded by the muddled lights of both the police and the community's protests, and is a reflection of the ongoing struggle in Ferguson, Missouri. *Untitled* is visually inspired by Neff's *Cage Variation* toner drawings, which he began several years ago and has continued to revisit through drawing, print, and now sculpture.

Scary Stories is an evolving archive of oral and visual narratives recorded and edited by artists Tatiana Istomina and Joey Fauerso. Participants are invited to first talk about what is “scary” in their own lives or in the life of the society as a whole, and then create drawings in response to the stories of others. Beginning with the artists’ own communities in San Antonio and New York City, *Scary Stories* explores how personal narratives reflect the collective concepts of danger and fearfulness among different social and cultural groups. With plans to expand the archive by recording in multiple locations nationally and internationally, *Scary Stories* fosters conversations between individuals and larger communities on the definitions and incarnations of fear, and creates the basis for mutual empathy and understanding through the fundamental acts of drawing and storytelling. *Open Sessions 2* presents a selection of short films based on the stories and drawings recorded by Fauerso and Istomina in San Antonio and New York. The artists will be working in a recording room at the back of the gallery throughout the show, conducting interviews with visitors to the museum and documenting their stories and drawings. **To sign up for an interview, visit scarystoriesproject.com.**

Patte Loper's *After Lebbeus: A Model for Drawing* responds to the architecture of the Lab at The Drawing Center. It has been built intuitively, without a plan, using a language of experimental architecture inspired by Lebbeus Woods, whose drawings were exhibited by The Drawing Center in 2013. Loper will draw the built form from observation at set times during the exhibition, leaving the drawings behind as part of the installation.

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Clockwise from left of stairs:

Adam Shecter and Matt Neff

Many Worlds, 2014
Risograph prints, #10 envelopes,
Mailing labels, plexiglass box
Dimensions variable
Courtesy of the artists

Mona Sharma

After "A," 2014
11 x 15 inches
Printed booklet
Courtesy of the artist

Arturs Virtmanis

WHAT HATH GOD WROUGHT (*three Dits, three Dahs, three Dits*), 2014
Charcoal on paper, steel pins, paper tape,
cardboard, wood, powdered charcoal
120 x 72 x 48 inches
Courtesy of the artist

Naho Taruishi

Woman in the Dunes, 2014
Graphite and charcoal on Magnani paper
13 ½ x 9 inches
Courtesy of Planthouse Gallery, New York

Ugetsu Monogatari - 96 minutes, 2012
Graphite, ink and charcoal on Somerset
paper
7 ¼ x 10 ¼ inches
Courtesy of Kazuo Taruishi

Louis Aimé Augustin Le Prince, 2014
White graphite on Yatsuo paper
34 ½ x 22 inches
Courtesy of the artist

Tatiana Istomina

Scary Stories from New York City, (*recorded
and edited by Tatiana Istomina*), 2014
Single channel video
Courtesy of the artist

Joey Fauerso

Scary Stories from San Antonio, Texas,
(*recorded and edited by Joey Fauerso*), 2014
Single channel video
Courtesy of the artist and David Shelton
Gallery, Houston

Matt Neff

Untitled, 2014
Plexiglas, fluorescent lights
36 x 24 x 20 inches
Courtesy of the artist

Cage Variations, 2011-2104
Three drawings, toner on paper
Each 15 x 21 inches

Patte Loper

After Lebbeus: A Model For Drawing, 2014
Found wood, cardboard, tape, plastic,
foam core, putty, DVD player, iPod

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Touch, animated video, drafting vellum,
graphite, oil on canvas

Dimensions variable

Courtesy of Platform Gallery, Seattle