



NEWS RELEASE

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Carol Stakenas 323.957.1777 x15, carol@welcometolace.org

On the Line

OPENING RECEPTION
Thursday 3 March 2011
8 - 10pm

3 March – 17 April 2011



Mitchell Syrop

Los Angeles, CA (5 February 2011) – LACE is proud to present *On the Line* curated by **Cody Treppe**. Since its inception in the late '60s, Conceptualism has shaken the art world, giving rise to a new art that prioritized ideas over form. As it developed, Conceptual Art began to spill over into other facets of art making, but its heavy reliance on language fueled criticism that it was inaccessible and insider.

A new generation of artists gaining prominence in Los Angeles during the '80s sought to tackle this problem head on. *On The Line* looks to four artists -- **Meg Cranston**, **Larry Johnson**, **Sarah Seager**, and **Mitchell Syrop** -- whose use of language can be seen as an evolution of Conceptualism. They parsed the discipline, and introduced a content that was more emotive while still maintaining a rigorous investment in ideas. "I think a lot about the role of Conceptualism in contemporary art," says Treppe, "and often wonder how the discourse is being advanced. These artists continue to inspire me in their varied approaches to this question, both historically and in their current work. "

This exhibition will feature historical, decade-defining works including installation pieces, works on paper, photographs, and sculptures. These California artists paid homage to the masters of Conceptual art, Sol LeWitt and Joseph Kosuth, through the creation of text-based pieces. Yet, these contemporary artists have displayed their individual style through a more humorous filled practice than the practice of their forefathers.

Treppe's approach to post-conceptual art practices will shed light on a new strategy for how to advance the discourse of conceptualism. The dominance of text-based communication technologies such as twitter, text messaging, and blogs, in conjunction with the reemergence of language-based art practices only increases the relevance of this project.

With a casual commitment to systems, a heavy injection of reclaimed subjectivity, and the reintroduction of formal concerns, the artists in this exhibition continue to morph the use of text-in-art from its early rigid applications to a more humorous and pathos filled practice. The result is a simultaneous questioning and affirmation of Conceptualism, which allows the discourse to continually reinvent itself.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Once called a "deceptively whimsical Conceptualist," **Meg Cranston's** work takes a variety of forms including sculpture, performance, drawing, photography, installation, and writing. Language is a consistent thread that runs throughout her practice, sometimes appearing on the surface of works, while at other times taking shape



through performances and writings. She has had solo exhibitions at Dunedin Public Art Gallery, New Zealand; Rosamund Felsen Gallery, Santa Monica; Galerie Michael Kapinos, Berlin; Venetia Kapenekas Fine Art, New York; and the Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh. Cranston is the recipient of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship, the Architectural Foundation of American Art in Public Places Award, and numerous other prizes.

Using a variety of animation techniques, appropriated pop culture, and a keen sense of humor, **Larry Johnson's** photographs present an unexpectedly fluid conflation of text and image. His work circulates around ideas central to the Los Angeles narrative, ranging from celebrity to sign culture. He was the subject of a 2009 survey exhibition at the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles and has exhibited internationally at other venues such as Patrick Painter, Inc, Santa Monica; Marc Janou Contemporary, New York; the New Museum, New York; Kunstverein Braunschweig e.V., Braunschweig, Germany; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Kunsthalle, Vienna; Institute for Contemporary Art, London; and the Whitney Museum of American Art.

Sarah Seager's work offers quiet glimpses into experiences both private and collective. Her works on paper, sculptures, and paintings are layered with elements of pathos and memory, while at the same time delicately maintaining a conceptual rigor. Seager has exhibited internationally at venues such as 1301 P.E., Los Angeles; Lühring Augustine, New York; Künstlerhaus Palais Thurn und Taxis, Bergenz, Austria; Kunstverein Munster, Munster, Germany; The Power Plant, Toronto; the Whitney Museum of American Art; The Renaissance Society; and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles. In addition to an extensive exhibition history, Seager has released a number of recordings and publications, including the artist book *Excuse My Dust*.

Mitchell Syrop's use of language is at once introspective and confrontational. His works span a range of subjects and mediums that center around the roles of systems and expressions of identity. He has had solo exhibitions at venues such as Rosamund Felsen Gallery, Los Angeles; Santa Monica Museum of Art; Lieberman & Saul Gallery, New York; Galeria Oliva Arauna, Madrid and participated in group exhibitions at the International Center of Photography, New York; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Walker Art Center; The Renaissance Society and Artists Space among other national and international locations.

ABOUT THE CURATOR

Cody Trepte is a Los Angeles based artist who works primarily in drawing, printmaking and photography. He has exhibited at venues such as Eleven Rivington, New York; Centro di Cultura Contemporanea Strozzi, Florence, Italy; Ausitn Museum of Art; Steve Turner Contemporary, Los Angeles; Weatherspoon Art Museum, Greensboro, North Carolina; and Kunstverein INGAN e.V., Berlin. He received a B.F.A. from New York University in 2005 and an M.F.A. from the California Institute of the Arts in 2010. *On the Line* is Trepte's first major curatorial project.



LOS ANGELES CONTEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS
6522 Hollywood Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90028
t: 323.957.1777 / f: 323.957.9025 / www.welcometolace.org

ABOUT LACE

[LACE](http://www.welcometolace.org) champions and challenges the art of our time by fostering artists who innovate, explore, and risk. We move within and beyond our four walls to provide opportunities for diverse publics to engage deeply with contemporary art. In doing so, we further dialogue and participation between and among artists and those audiences. www.welcometolace.org.

LACE (Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions)
6522 Hollywood Boulevard, Los Angeles CA 90028
Gallery Hours: Wed - Sun 12 - 6pm, and Thu 12 - 9 pm
Suggested donation \$3, Members free

SUPPORT

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