

Essayist: Deborah Chaney



Color, another tool to suggest the warmth and sunshine of summer, is used by Maho Kino in *New Deep*, a quaint technicolor etching of a small character, Mr. Peanut, canoeing through the rays of a summer sunset. In the monotype *For a Few Dollars More*, Justin Sanz takes us on a trip to the desert where we feel the heat of this cowboy's gray, barren landscape and are hit with the blow to the face of this unfortunate fellow (Clint Eastwood?). Another colorful but more abstract example is Rachel Gross's *Lamp*, a haunting yet alluring image, like some sort of UFO, with the fire-red halo radiating underneath causing it to hover and float off the page. Gross uses a simple yet stunning combination of materials to create this sophisticated and seductive print.

Even though color is absent, the viewer can feel the heat in Geo Sipp's *Car Bomb in Algiers*. This image, one of a pair of exquisite vitreographs selected for the show, achieves a graphic quality, as well as subtle tonality through the creation of the glass plate matrix. James Siena's etching *The Woods* creates a visual kinetic energy through its vibrating and dry splintering line work. Barbara Duvall's etching *Untitled 4* generates a feeling of mystery with this group of running silhouetted figures and their long cast shadows. What are they running from? Where are they going? An eerie sense emanates the soft yet scratchy cross-hatched vignette surrounding these figures, creating a fine balance between innocent and alarming.

Animals make their appearance in a number of prints, a dog going for a cool swim in Mary Devincenti's gestural monotype *Dog Pond 4*, and monkeys in the artist book *Disappearing*, by Meredith Broberg. The contained portraits are an elegant depiction of these endangered tropical animals, beautifully documented and bound in a decayed looking artifact. The summer rats come out to play in Lauren Drescher's *Avenue B Rat* and *Avenue D Rat*. These furry scavengers remind us that New York City streets come alive in the summer.

Socio-political references appear in Ray Beldner's *Benedict 04.28.10* a blurred portrait, appearing as if his face is some sort of mirage or apparition. Jessica Coven's piece *Let Me Be Clear* cannot be clearer with the oversized notebook page aggressively scribed with this direct proclamation.

Alternative formats of prints in the form of three-dimensional sculptural forms create a unique take on the definition of traditional printed matter, as in Veronica O'Keefe's fashionable (and almost functional) *The Romantic Manifesto*, a printed, sculpted and sewn dress form. Perfect attire for warm weather. Does paper breathe? Summer pests cannot exclude mosquitoes, which make their appearance in Anna Hutchings' *Swarm* a sculpture of etched copper discs depicting mosquitoes in amber colored enamel, sewn together to form a pack, or potentially painful gang. A perfect summertime brooch? Or maybe a talisman to ward off the evil pests?

Heat is energy in transit, energy being transferred from one thing to another. In *New Prints 2010/Summer – Heat!*, as with most themed shows, the unifying concept is defined in many different ways, either by the artists themselves through their submissions, or by the committee in order to justify selecting a particular piece. It was the variety of ways the artists chose to define the concept of heat, whether literal or obscure, that made the selection process interesting and exciting. In the end, the committee simply chose outstanding work that demonstrated great character and technical achievement. The work in the exhibition ranges in medium, scale, format and dimension, and even pushes some boundaries challenging the idea of what defines a print.

Literal references to heat include some more obvious but impactful imagery, like fire. This is skillfully exemplified in Michael Torlen's monotype *Dead in the Water* with an image of a boat exploding in flames as the victims below - with their glowing auras - sink down helplessly into the murky water. Another piece, Kit Boyce's *Drop*, a multi-block woodcut depicts a plane taking off amidst a burning landscape of radiating flames.

Feel the burn in the installation of sequential exercise video prints titled *Left Leg* by Stella Ebner. This unique but continual patterned wallpaper piece is kind of the ultimate procrastination piece of playing the exercise video, studying it in great detail, sketching, drawing, making a multicolor silkscreen installation based on the video, but perhaps not proceeding with the exercises themselves. I myself tend to watch these as video performance pieces, and to get my exercise making prints.

Michael Bisbee's pair of shotgun blasted pieces pushes the boundaries and challenges the definition of a print. These monoprints contain a repeated impression created using shotgun buckshot pellets as the matrix but exist as unique pieces. Aside from technique, these prints have an aged quality, telling a story through the physicality and destruction of the materials, turning each of the prints into an object, relic or piece of evidence.

I was truly honored to be a part of the Selections Committee for this show and to be in the company of some prominent figures in the print world including Carol Blake, Artist & Collector; John Caperton, Curator, The Print Center of Philadelphia; Kathy Caraccio, Artist & Founder, K. Caraccio Printmaking Studio; Marc Lepson, Artist; and Barry Winiker, Corporate Art Advisor, Pfizer, Inc.; and. Thanks to Anne Coffin and Kendra Sullivan for this opportunity to be apart of IPCNY's New Prints Program.

-Deborah Chaney, Artist & Tamarind Master Printer, Brooklyn, NY

IPCNY International Print Center New York is a non-profit institution dedicated to the appreciation and understanding of the fine art print. Through exhibitions, information services and public programs, IPCNY contributes to the expansion of audiences for the visual arts. Since the inauguration of the New Prints Program in 2000, works by well over 1,200 artists and 180 presses have been brought to public attention in a series of exhibitions in IPCNY's Chelsea gallery. A touring program expands the reach of these shows to regional audiences nationwide. *New Prints 2010/Summer - Heat!*, the thirty-sixth presentation of the New Prints Program, exhibits an exceptional group of fifty-nine works by fifty-two emerging to established artists. Ranging in technique from the traditional to the highly experimental, all of the work has been made within the past twelve months. *New Prints 2010/Summer* offers an instant view of some of the most compelling work in the field of fine art printmaking today.

All New Prints exhibitions, along with selected other IPCNY shows are available for tour through IPCNY's Exhibition Touring Program. For further information, contact IPCNY Program Manager Kendra Sullivan at Kendra@ipcnyc.org.

IPCNY's gallery is open to the public; admission is free. Summer gallery hrs: 11-6, Mon-Fri.

The New Prints Program is funded in part with public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency, and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

Image Credit: Michael Bisbee, *Untitled (5.2010-07)*, 2010, Shotgun blasted/imprinted oil on paper, Edition: unique, 26 x 20 inches, Printed and published by the artist. Stella Ebner, *Left Leg*, 2010, Installation of 9 screenprints, Edition: varied, 70 x 90 inches (installation), Printed and published by the artist.

IPCNY

Heat!

NEW PRINTS 2010/Summer
July 13 - August 13, 2010



Selections Committee:

Carol Blake, Artist & Collector

John Caperton, Curator, The Print Center, Philadelphia

Kathy Carraccio, Artist & Founder, K. Caraccio Printmaking Studio

Deborah Chaney, Artist & Tamarind Master Printer

Marc Lepson, Artist

Barry Winiker, Corporate Art Advisor, Pfizer, Inc.

Complete Artists' List:

Francine Kay Affourtit, Daniel Allegrucci, Brian Anderson, Carlos Andrade, Katie Baldwin, Ray Beldner, Michael Bisbee, Brent Bond, Brian Borlaug, Kit Boyce, Meredith Broberg, Nathan Catlin, Ann Conrad, Jessica Coven, Mary DeVincentis, Erin Diebboll, Lauren Drescher, Joellyn Duesberry, Barbara Duval, Stella Ebner, Richard D. Finch, Rick Finn, Tate Foley, Steven Ford, Eileen M. Foti, Paul Gentry, Lari Gibbons, Rachel Gross, Melissa Harshman, Yuji Hiratsuka, Tom Huck, Anna Hutchings, Maho Kino, Anthony Lazorko, Michael Litzau, Veronica O'Keefe, Serena Perrone, Jenny Robinson, Rosa Ruey, Ron Rumford, Justin Sanz, James Siena, Geo Sipp, Laurie Sloan, Fred Stonehouse, Julia Talcott, Michael Torlen, Patty Tyrol, Daryl Vocat, Maureen Warren, Ella Weber, and Tammy Wofsey.

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