

Christopher Samuels and Ian Swanson

Main Gallery
January 21 - February 19, 2011

Opening Reception
Friday, January 21 · 7pm - 9pm

Sponsored by:





Paint Creek Center for the Arts is pleased to present a collaborative exhibit by Christopher Samuels and Ian Swanson. For this exhibit the artists created and exchanged “soundtracks”. The resulting exhibit comprises the works created in response to and in the presence of the audio that was supplied by each artist. The preliminary audio works are as follows:

Christopher Samuels: Pocket Anxiety

A recording of the artist's voice at 741Hz according to the sacred Solfeggio frequencies. 741Hz evokes Intuitive states & non-linear knowing and awakening Intuition.

Ian Swanson: Titanomachia

The top 12 tracks of Billboard's Hot 100 list of 2010 were filtered through a digital signal sifter according to their ranked number (ie: #1 is sifted at 111Hz, #2 at 222Hz, etc.). The resulting audio is a conceptual ambient audio recording representing the rhythms and frequencies that are most prominent in the popular conscious. The title reflects the War of the Titans, a mythical battle of the old and new generation of Greek Gods for control of the heavens. The 12 tracks represent the 12 thrones available on Mt. Olympus.

Christopher Samuels (Detroit, MI), co-founded the artist-run gallery space Org Contemporary in 2009. His work has been exhibited in New York, Los Angeles and throughout Michigan. In the summer of 2010 Samuels attended the Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture.

Ian Swanson received his BFA from Wayne State University in Detroit, MI. He is a multidisciplinary artist, musician, and curator. In 2009 he helped co-found the Detroit artist run gallery Org Contemporary. He currently is also an associate at Northend Studios, a recently formed artist run gallery and studio space in Detroit. He exhibits regularly in Michigan, as well as nationally and internationally. He also performs with numerous experimental audio projects, and as one half of synthpunk duo Terminal Girls, whose debut LP “Weird Lights” is being released by Philadelphia's FDH records in late 2010. He currently lives and works in the Metro Detroit area.

This exhibit is supported by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, the National Endowment for the Arts and the Kresge Foundation.



THE KRESGE FOUNDATION

Paint Creek Center for the Arts exhibitions are sponsored by Andrews Hooper Pavlik PLC of Auburn Hills, Michigan and Whims Insurance Agency, Inc of Rochester, Michigan.





The work centers around the exhibition premise; both Ian and I made soundtracks in which each of us then were able to do anything we wanted with each others soundtrack. I listened to the soundtrack in place of the normal studio music and proceeded to make new work. My approach was to replace all of the sounds around me in an attempt to control even more of the environment in which I worked. This idea came about after considering whether or not the music or sounds one listened to could actually affect visual output. This idea is predominant in previous generations of art making when artists would listen to Jazz and subsequently produce works that had a particular rhythm or flow. So the music is working merely as another tool (brush, paint, clay and now sounds.)

The painting series and sculpture are exercises in how sounds and music can affect the work. Essentially the gestures in the paintings and the composition of the sculpture are a direct result of being completely engulfed by a unique sound or soundtrack. They somewhat sway a little according to what the sound track was playing at that moment and ultimately come together as the weeks and months roll on.

Additionally, I choose to use my own soundtrack (the one I sent to Ian) and incorporated it into a video piece titled the same as the soundtrack "741HZ". What I wasn't aware of was that Ian had recreated that exact tone, 741 HZ, through other means, which is part of a video now playing on the TV in the space. The resulting effect is a matching of tones between my video and his video which is not only exciting and very interesting to hear when you are in the space but also speaks towards the unique phenomenon that has happened; we were completely unaware of what each others' work was doing or looking like prior to installing but because we had this underlying concept the works not only look compatible together they actually and literally are harmonizing with each other as a result.

Christopher Samuels



Video still

Christopher Samuels (b. 1983, Detroit, MI), co-founded the artist-run gallery space Org Contemporary in 2009. His work has been exhibited in New York, Los Angeles and throughout Michigan. In the summer of 2010 Samuels attended the Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture.

Christopher Samuels

b. 1983 Detroit, MI
lives and works in Detroit, MI
2010 Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture
2007 Academy of Design & Technology

Solo Exhibitions

2010

Cave Gallery, Detroit, MI (forthcoming)
Show The Insides, Detroit Industrial Projects, Detroit, MI

2009

as is, as it is now, Museum of New Art, Pontiac, MI

Two-Person Exhibitions

2009

Christopher Samuels, Lindsey Yeo; recent perks, Org Contemporary, Detroit, MI
The Debt Collective, Cass Gallery, Detroit, MI (Collaboration with Ian Swanson)

Group Exhibitions

2010

SK10, Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture Gallery, ME
(selection from) Untitled Television Show, Curated By Jeffrey Tranchell, John Connelly Presents, New York, NY
Version 2010, Chicago, IL
This Is Amateur Hour, 285 Quincy Street, New York, NY
Untitled Television Show, Curated By Jeffrey Tranchell, New York, NY
The Art Of The Artist Book; Let's Talk About Love Baby, Oakland University Art Gallery, Rochester, MI

2009

Shameless, Nameless & Recycled, Pencil On Paper Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Paintings, Drawings & Prints by Midwest Artists, Detroit Industrial Projects, Detroit, MI
Detroit: Breeding Ground, Museum of New Art, Pontiac, MI
Walking Distance, 2739 Edwin Gallery, Detroit, MI
Warhol Was Blind, Museum of New Art, Pontiac, MI
MI Annual XXXV, Anton Art Center, Mt Clemens, MI
Bloodbath City, Anton Art Center, Mt Clemens, MI

2008

Detroit Loves Company, Johanson Charles Gallery, Detroit, MI
Buy This!, Anton Art Center, Mt Clemens, MI
our business is stealing souls... and business is good, Johanson Charles Gallery, Detroit, MI
Institution / Simulacrum, 1354 Division Gallery, Detroit, MI
Rigged, 1354 Division Gallery, Detroit, MI

2007

Warming House, Loft Gallery, Detroit, MI

Awards

2010

Grant, Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture

Curatorial

2009-2010

Executive Director, org contemporary, Detroit, MI

2009

Detroit: Breeding Ground, Museum of New Art, Pontiac, MI

Press

2010

18er Gold Gallery, "Featured #1: Christopher Samuels", 18ergold.com 2010

Liz Voss, "Making the book, self-publishing works", Crain's detroitmakeithere.com 2010

Rebecca Mazzei, "Showing us our city, through their eyes", MetroTimes, 2009

Kelli B. Kavanaugh "Org Contemporary Gallery Takes Up Residence", www.modeldmedia.com

2009

Jenna Cashcera, "Objects of our lower middle class", thedetroiter.com 2009

Megan O'neal, Critics Pick, "Solidarity in Misery", Metrotimes, 2008

Robert Del Valle, "The company we keep", Real Detroit, 2008

Print

Megan Deal, "Detroit: Breeding Ground, a catalog", 2009



MP

Amidst the comfort of cynicism and the challenge of optimism, I'm engaged in a hypothetical tug of war between what was, is, and can be. Much of my work rests on the tenuous relationship between what we reveal and what remains unseen; both in ourselves and in the environments in which we are surrounded. I am interested in the power of symbols and the ways in which people respond to charged imagery. I am fascinated with the process of improvisation that occurs when particular rules are set or options are limited. I feel in many ways that belief is a tool that can be used to compelling ends. I trust the essence ingrained in tangible objects and images, and attempt to manipulate that micro-history towards new or overlooked possibilities. Through experimentation with commonplace applications of materials, I aim to better understand different notions of personal and cultural identity while challenging conventional forms of representation. I prefer to leave my work hovering in the space between the slickness of mass production and the intimacy of labor and chance, carefully shifting between a coerced narrative and an open ended interpretation. I believe that life and art are solidly reciprocal; that the events and ideas that shape our generational identity are directly and proportionately related to the times and places in which they exist.

Ian Swanson - Notes on artworks

Titanomachia - 4:54 audio recording

The top 12 tracks of Billboard's Hot 100 list of 2010 were filtered through a digital signal sifter and pitch tracker according to their ranked number. The resulting audio recording represents the rhythms and frequencies that are most prominent in the popular conscious. The title refers to the War of the Titans, a mythical battle of the old and new generation of Greek Gods for control of the heavens, with the 12 tracks representing the 12 thrones available on Mt. Olympus.

SO LP - acrylic, screen print, and mixed media on 100 LP album covers, milkcrates, cushioned kneeler

These 100 different mixed media prints were created while listening only to a looped 741hz tone. This frequency is purported to promote intuitive states and non-linear thinking. The work is an experiment in testing that logic. They are installed in crates to be kneeled before and flipped through by gallery visitors.

I Saw Jesus at the Foot of my Bed - single channel DVD

The broadcast color bars were pitched shifted to 741hz and a looped video was made. That video was then played and refilmed before the altar of television.

Rare Earth - blank microcassette, microcassette with audio recording, blister pack, poem

A time capsule of the obsolete. A poem referencing a particular period of my life was written and recorded on a microcassette. The tape was then resealed in it's original package to never be heard. How does an idea survive? Through objects? Language? Did it ever exist in the first place? If a record of an event is never made or destroyed, did it ever happen?

sea people loft invasion two thousand and four
Laconian dialect
goth girl left for Savannah
space painting on a dodge
garage
studio Stonehenge porch
someone fell upon the water in an endless summer
down the Hall
that Chinese food at the mall was terrible
he said,
you just have to know how to wear banana republic right
A remorseless tactic.

*fun fact : "a remorseless tactic" is an anagram of "Laser Microcassette"

MP - pulverized solar cells, test tube, LED

A pathetic and mysterious attempt at energy manipulation.

FFT - aluminum, record player

The aluminum tower is representative of .001 seconds of Chris' audio. A spectral analyzer was used to determine the wave form of the audio and deconstructed down to a small enough segment where the waveform could be drawn and hammered into aluminum. Light reflects from the tower and the waveform. The turntable spins the tower like an ominous and alien beacon.



FFT

Ian Swanson received his BFA from Wayne State University in Detroit, MI. He works in a variety of media and through a number of methods; including painting, sound, sculpture, video, installation, writing and performance based projects. In 2009 he helped co-found the Detroit-based artist run gallery org Contemporary. Currently, he is involved with the community via the Northend Studios and thedetroiter.com. He has and continues to exhibit regularly regionally and nationally. He also performs with numerous experimental audio and musical projects in both individual and collaborative capacities. He currently lives and works in the Metro Detroit area.

Ian Swanson
32031 Williamsburg
St. Clair Shores, MI
48082

iancswanson@hotmail.com 248-909-2120

b. 1983 in Detroit, MI. Lives and works in Metro Detroit.

Education

BFA - Wayne State University, Detroit, MI

Solo and Two Person Exhibitions :

2011

"Total Fitness", North2Gallery, Team Detroit, Dearborn, MI

"Christopher Samuels & Ian Swanson", Paint Creek Center for the Arts, Rochester, MI

2010

"Get Left" Mosaic Productions Gallery, Detroit, MI

2009

"The Debt Collective" Cass Café Gallery, Detroit, MI (collaboration with Christopher Samuels)

"Lacquer" - org Contemporary, Detroit MI

Selected Group Exhibitions :

2011

"Automobiles: Shaping our Landscape, Designing out Lives", Public Pool, Hamtramck, MI

"Brighton Approach:Gold Edition (curated exhibition in print)", U-Turn Art Space, Cincinnati, OH

2010

"Viking Funeral", Downtown Initiative for the Visual Arts, Eugene, OR

"Re:Collect 2010", Re:View Contemporary, Detroit,MI

"Pop Up Detroit", 5800 Cass, Detroit, MI

"10:10:10:Art Meets Technology", District VII, Detroit,MI

"Expansive Spaces/Spanning the Bridge", Susan Kristjansson Gallery, Sarnia, ON, Canada

"Swim Lane", 2739 Edwin, Hamtramck, MI

"I don't believe in art, I believe in artists" , Whitdel Arts, Detroit MI

"Regionalism" - Downtown Initiative for the Visual Arts, Eugene, OR

"Version 2010" - Chicago, IL

"How to Blur a Line", Motor City Movie House, Detroit MI

2009

"Prototype", Whitdel Arts, Detroit MI

"Paintings, Prints, and Drawings by Midwest Artists", Detroit Industrial Projects, Detroit MI

"Re:Collect" @ Re:View Contemporary, Detroit MI

"3 Cities in 3D" @ SCENE Metrospace, Lansing MI

"Collected" , Anton Art Center, Mt. Clemens MI (collaboration with Chris Samuels)

"Replacements" , Museum of New Art, Pontiac MI

2008

"Rigged", 1354 Division Gallery, Detroit MI

"Institution/Simulacrum", 1354 Division Gallery, Detroit MI

"Our Business is Stealing Souls...", Johansson Charles Gallery, Detroit MI

"Detroit Loves Company", Johansson Charles Gallery, Detroit MI

"BUY THIS!", Anton Art Center, Mt. Clemens MI

"Elbow Grease", Work Gallery, Ann Arbor MI

2007

"75th Anniversary All-Media Exhibition", Detroit Artist's Market, Detroit MI

"Detroit Next", Detroit Artist's Market, Detroit MI

"Blood Bath City", Anton Art Center, Mt Clemens MI

2006

"That DAM Box Show", Detroit Artist's Market, Detroit, MI

Audio/Music Releases:

Flat Black Animal - "Strictly Nocturnal" EP - 2010 - Vacuum Noise Media - <http://vnrtapes.blogspot.com/>

Terminal Girls - "Weird Lights" LP - FDH Records - 2010 - <http://www.fdhmusic.com>

Curatorial :

- Currently assists in selecting artists for exhibition at the gallery in the Northend Studios in Detroit, MI (www.northendstudiosdetroit.com)

- One of three founding directors of (the now defunct) org Contemporary in Detroit, MI. An artist run gallery specializing in solo and two person exhibitions of innovative local and national contemporary artists.

www.orgcontemporary.com

Professional Activities :

Elsewhere Artist Collaborative 2011 Resident Artist(forthcoming), Greensboro, NC www.elsewhereelsewhere.org
Editor – thedetroiter.com

Guest Lecturer : Images and Concepts, 2010, College for Creative Studies, Detroit, MI

Juror – Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne County 2011 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards

Juror – Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne County 2010 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards

Donations :

MAPP Artworks for Life, Dearborn MI - 2007

MAPP Artworks for Life, Detroit, MI - 2010

Press :

"I don't believe in art, I believe in artists" - exhibition catalog w/contributions by Sarah Turner & Mary Fortuna

"Blurring Lines to Redefine Experience and Identity" - Gabrielle Pescador - Artslant.com

"Objects of our Lower Middle-Class" , Jenna Cashcera - www.thedetroiter.com

"Org Contemporary Gallery Takes Up Residence", Kelli B. Kavanaugh - www.modeldmedia.com

"Detroit Next" , Dolores S. Slowinski - www.thedetroiter.com