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**Leon Berkowitz: The Cathedral Series
Jason Gubbiotti: Wrong Way To Paradise
Portia Munson: Pink Project: Contained
April 14 - May 26, 2007**

Washington DC -- Hemphill Fine Arts will open three exhibitions to coincide with the citywide *Colorfied Remix* project: *Leon Berkowitz: The Cathedral Series*, *Jason Gubbiotti: Wrong Way To Paradise* and *Portia Munson: Pink Project: Contained*. The exhibitions open on Saturday, April 14, 2007 with a public reception from 6:30 – 8:30 pm. The exhibition remains on view until Saturday, May 26, 2007.

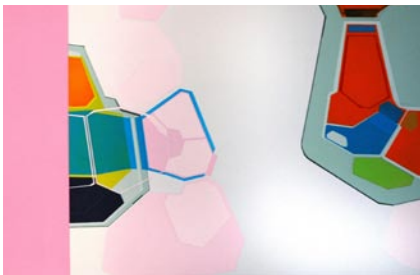
The exhibition of artwork by Berkowitz, Gubbiotti, and Munson demonstrates the evolution of art from a spiritual preoccupation with color in the mid 20th century, to the contemporary use of color to emphasize meaning and physicality. The 1960s paintings by Berkowitz evidence the Modernist ideals of color purity, while Gubbiotti expands notions of “all overness,” as visual elements from his paintings are repeated on the walls and are made 3-dimensional as sculptures bridging the space between the walls and floor. Munson’s use of a single hue takes advantage of Post-Modern interpretations of color and global implications consumerism.



The Cathedral Series highlights Leon Berkowitz’s significant contributions to “Color Field” painting. These highly saturated, dynamic stripe paintings are being exhibited for the first time since the 1960s. The paintings exemplify Berkowitz’s masterful use of color and line and parallel the painting practices of fellow Washington Color School artists Gene Davis and Kenneth Noland.

Born in 1915 in Philadelphia, PA, Berkowitz received a M.A. from George Washington University in 1948. He was integral to the formation of The Washington Workshop Center for The Arts in 1945 where artists such as Morris Louis, Kenneth Noland, and Jacob Kainen taught. The Center served as a community center to promote the local art scene and fostered interaction among members of the Washington Color School. His work has been exhibited and included in numerous private and public collections, including the Baltimore Museum of Art and the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

Wrong Way to Paradise is an exhibition of new works by Jason Gubbiotti. Gubbiotti’s work reflects the residual influences of Color Field painting in its vibrant color and deliberate flatness, while instigating a larger exploration of abstract painting and contemporary issues of space and power relationships. The shapes in Gubbiotti’s paintings battle for visual dominance while they also represent current political struggles for territorial control.



The exhibition features new paintings on canvas, panel and vinyl, combined with paintings made directly on the walls, and three-dimensional floor pieces. It is as if the viewer has entered the microcosm of a Gubbiotti painting. The artist refers to the paintings on the walls as “mental spaces,” the pieces on the floor as “physical spaces,” and the paintings on the wall surfaces as “converts.”

Jason Gubbiotti received a B.F.A. from the Corcoran College of Art and Design in 1998. His work has been exhibited in Washington, DC, California, Texas, Ohio, Germany, France, and Switzerland. The artist lives and works in Metz, France.

H E M P H I L L



Portia Munson's *Pink Project: Contained* is a site-specific installation created for Gallery Three. Expanding upon her ongoing Pink Project, Munson has collected plastic objects made in various shades of the color pink. The mass of disposable objects, which range from combs to dolls and dildos to toy lipsticks, will fill the gallery space, pressing against a plexiglass wall covering the gallery entrance. The political implications of Munson's work include criticism of consumerism, the excess of a culture inundated with inexpensive, mass produced items, and interpretations of feminist issues. She is engaged by the aesthetic and formal implications of amassing a single, saturated color.

Munson received a B.F.A from The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art and a M.F.A. from Rutgers University. Her work has been exhibited throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe, including such venues as the Museum of Contemporary Art in Helsinki, Finland and the Kunsthallen Brandts Klaedefabrik in Denmark. Munson has received fellowships and residencies from the Marie Sharpe Walsh Studio Program, Yaddo, Skowhegan, and The Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, RI, among others.

The Leon Berkowitz, Jason Gubbiotti, and Portia Munson exhibitions are part of the citywide *Colorfield Remix* project inspired by the Kreeger Museum's exhibition *Gene Davis: Interval*. Several Washington, DC museums have Washington Color School paintings on view from their permanent collections, contemporary galleries have programmed exhibitions of historically relevant artwork or artwork by contemporary artists working in the legacy of Color Field history, and public art projects will be recreated to celebrate color, line, and edge. The Washington Arts Museum will present *Looking Into Color: The Paintings of Leon Berkowitz* at Pepco's Edison Place Gallery (701 9th Street, NW) from April 10 to June 28, 2007 with an opening reception on April 10 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Further information about the *Colorfield Remix* project, the exhibitions, and programs can be found at www.colorfieldremix.com.

GALLERY HOURS

Tuesday - Saturday, 10 AM to 5 PM and by appointment.

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