

Hi Jess,

This press release is intense. Very felt; your read of painting is excellent, and as Dana and I discussed, you make claims for our work that WE could never say about our own work, like “schizophrenic” or “emancipatory narrative” or quoting Agnes Martin. I really like it, but there are a few grammatical things I find confusing, and a few misspellings spell-check might not find. Below are my comments or changes in capital letters, next to the original. Thanks so much for all your hard work.

(Dana already mentioned the spelling of her name and my hyphen)

Recent work by Molly Zuckerman Hartung and Dana DeGuilio

September 9 – October 17, 2009

Events:

Opening Reception: Wednesday, September 9, 4-8pm

Artist Talk and Closing Reception: Saturday, October 10, 5pm

The O’Connor Art Gallery

7900 West Division St – Lewis Hall, 4th Floor, River Forest, IL 60305

Gallery Hours: Monday – Saturday, 10am – 6pm

Web: dom.edu/departments/artDepartment/gallery.html

Contact: Jessica Cochran, Director, jcochran@dom.edu

River Forest, IL- The O’Connor Art Gallery at Dominican University is pleased to announce the year opening exhibition, *Red Peter*, featuring recent paintings by rising Chicago painters Molly Zuckerman-Hartung and Dana DeGuilio. The title of this exhibition comes from Franz Kafka’s short story *A Report to an Academy*, in which Red Peter, an ape, gives a lecture to an academic audience, detailing his transformation from an ape into what can best be described as a ‘performing’ human. It has been argued that the character Red Peter makes visible identity and existential conflict, (THIS SENTENCE IS CONFUSING TO ME. I THINK YOU MEAN THAT THE VISIBLE IDENTITY AND THE EXISTENTIAL IDENTITY ARE IN CONFLICT, WHICH IS REALLY NICE.) and his lecture serves as a critique of Western subjectivity, and its predatory nature.

The paintings in this exhibition are by two artists whose different approaches to abstraction work from the ground up, as they allude to greater narratives-- grand gestures and historical junctures such as those symbolized in *A Report to an Academy*. Molly Zuckerman-Hartung’s scitzophrenic(SCHIZOPHRENIC) approach to process manifests finished works that result from dramatically different methodologies. A felt productive tension works among the paintings; some are neon colorful patchworks and others spray painted stripes. Others still, depict deep painted voids that contrast with light washes that expose the canvas. By empirically negating an easy or romantic emotional impulse that is often characteristic of painting, the artist more subtly implies the emotion is really there.

In *The Untroubled Mind* (1972) painter Agnes Martin famously wrote “This painting I like because you can get in there and rest.” While her abstractions are far from Martin’s meditative grids, Dana DeGuilio’s work opens a space for intense contemplation and active consideration that seems to live and breathe. Energizing moments of painted surface make it possible that each look offers the possibility for a new observation, (POSSIBLE USED TWICE)

alluding to emancipatory narratives by way of intense, gestural mark-making. Her canvases are largely monochromatic, and they exist as emotive records of the act of painting.

(Left to right) Untitled, Dana DeGuilio; Flottelfraus, Molly Zuckerman-Hartung

About the Artists

Molly Zuckerman-Hartung

Zuckerman-Hartung received her MFA in Painting and Drawing from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and has exhibited widely, with solo exhibitions at John Connelly Presents (NY, 2008) and Rowley Kennerk Gallery (Chicago, 2008) GROUP EXHIBITION IN FRANKFURT GERMANY –JACKY STRENZ GALLERY 2009 AND MENTION JULIUS CAESAR.

Dana DeGuilio

DeGuilio received her MFA in Painting and Drawing from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She has been included in group exhibitions at Contemporary Art Workshop, Chicago; Roots and Culture Contemporary Art Center, Chicago; Gallery 40000, Chicago; Old Parole Board, Madison, WI.

About the O’Connor Art Gallery

The mission of the O’Connor Art Gallery is to present the Dominican University academic community with timely, relevant and focused contemporary art exhibitions that foster critical and thoughtful dialogue across disciplines. Exhibitions are curated with the student body in mind, as they are meant to introduce students to new and innovative artistic concepts, practices and strategies. Located in Lewis Hall, steps from many of the art department’s studios and classrooms, the gallery is particularly accessible to art students as a space for intimate engagement and reflection. In addition to at least three curated exhibitions per year, the gallery is also the site of an annual juried student show and senior thesis exhibitions.

For more information, contact Jessica Cochran, Director, jcochran@dom.edu

MZH (blue moon) 10 x 8
MZH (string) 18 x 18
DD and MZH Wall of drawings. Dimenstions variable.
DD (torso) 47 x 52
MZh (dead kimono rat) 14 x 12
DD (pair from Secrist) 28 x 30
MZH (little landscapy thing) 8 x 10
DD A Terrible Sock Machine Oil on canvas. 43 x 46
MZH (little canvas board trapdoor) 14 x 12
DD (black one) 30 x 36
MZH (coffin) 14 x 10
MZH (diamond) 24 x 30
MZH (red) 12 x 9
MZH (net) 14 x 12
DD Nom de Guerre (redactor) Oil on ccanvas. 47 x 52
MZH (cut out triangle thing) 10 x 17
DD Dumpster Oil and latex on canvas. 30 x 38
MZH (hatchet) 36 x 24
DD Bit. Oil on canvas. 20 x 24
MZH (white wet one) 14 x 11
DD (little white obstruitions) 20 x 24
MZH (hot dog) 11 x 9
DD Pavarotti. 32 x 36
MZH Peacock. 14 x 11