

**BEN MALTZ GALLERY
MEDIA RELEASE**

Media contact: Kathy MacPherson, gallerinfo@otis.edu, 310.665.6909. Images available.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December, 2005

The Otis Board of Governors and the Ben Maltz Gallery are pleased to present
February 10 – April 15, 2006

From the Island of Misfit Toys: an exhibition of artwork inspired by toys

Curated by Meg Linton, Director of the Ben Maltz Gallery & Public Programs

Artists: Elizabeth Berdann (blu), Deborah Brown, Nathan Cabrera, Jonathan Callan, Jeroen de Vries, Dan Goodsell, Kelly Heaton, Walter Martin & Paloma Muñoz, Anne Walsh, and 8 Bit Weapon

Friday, February 10, 7-10pm Reception for the artists with live music by 8 Bit Weapon, model car dancing performance by Jeroen de Vries (Jevries), and special guests Mr. Toast from The Imaginary World and Santa Claus

From the Island of Misfit Toys looks at how fine artists are manipulating toys to create sculpture, video, and music that push the boundaries physically, emotionally, or conceptually to address larger themes of consumerism, the surrogate, and death. Through exaggeration of scale, excessive use of material, and do-it-yourself methods, this exhibition introduces a set of artists who are blurring the lines between creative fields and taking toys to humorous, thoughtful, and poignant places.

Lectures and Events:

Tues, Feb 7, 10am, Forum: Jonathan Callan: *Empires*

Thurs Feb 9, 12pm & Sat, Feb 11, 1pm, Gallery: Jeroen de Vries: *Come Out to Play* - Dancing car performance

Tues, Feb 14, 10am, Forum: *But Seriously! Humor and Realism in Elizabeth Berdann's Paintings.*
Lecture by Elizabeth Berdann

Sat, Mar 11, 1pm, & Thu, Mar 16, Noon, Gallery: Dan Goodsell: *The Imaginary World*

Sun, Mar 12, 2pm, Gallery: *Living with AIBO* – A Sony demonstration of robotic pets

For more info visit www.otis.edu/calendar



Elizabeth Berdann (blu), born in Allentown, Pennsylvania, received her BA at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts. She has studied at various institutions including the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris and Parsons School of Design in New York. Her meticulous oil paintings have been shown at The New Museum of Contemporary Art and The Contemporary Museum in Hawaii. She has had solo exhibitions at Cristinerose Gallery and the Montclair Art Museum. She lives and works in New York City.

www.elizabethberdann.com

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Deborah Brown, born in Clearwater, Florida in 1968, received her MFA from University of California, Irvine in 1993. Known for her sculptural amalgams of surreal and pop culture imagery, she produced work in the 1990's using materials such as mis-matched doll parts and toys. She has had solo exhibitions at Mark Moore Gallery, Santa Monica; Laguna Art Museum Satellite, Costa Mesa; and Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego. Her work is included in the Laguna Art Museum permanent collection.



Nathan Cabrera was born in Oxnard, California in 1976. He is a self-taught artist and designer whose work involves life-sized sculptures, paintings and print media. Early in his career, Nathan worked as a comic book artist and developed shows for Fox Kids, Jim Henson and Disney. His art has been shown throughout the West Coast including a solo exhibition at Sixspace Gallery. Cabrera is currently creating an original line of vinyl figures for Necessary Toy Foundation. He lives and works in Los Angeles, California. <http://www.sixspace.com/gallery/nathan2003/index.php>
<http://www.necessarietoyfoundation.com/bunnyduck.html>



Jonathan Callan was born in Manchester, England in 1961. He received his Higher Degree of Fine Art from the Slade School of Fine Arts, London. His transformed objects have been included in a number of exhibitions throughout Europe and North America. His retrospective *Interference: Jonathan Callan* took place in 2003 at the New Art Gallery in Wasall, England. He is represented in the United States by the Nicole Klagsbrun Gallery in New York and currently lives and works in London. http://www.nicoleklagsbrun.com/callan_home.htm



Jeroen de Vries was born in Utrecht, the Netherlands in 1970. He studied at Rotterdam Art Academy and Open Studio, Amsterdam. His eclectic international career has included industrial, graphic, and video design. Central Park Utrecht skate park has been featured in Thrasher magazine. He is currently involved in creating products for lowrider model cars produced by his own company *Central Projects/Jevries*. He lives and works in Utrecht, the Netherlands. <http://www.jevries.com>



Dan Goodsell, born in 1965 in Newport Beach, California received his BA from University of California, Irvine. His painting, illustration, and objects are centered around a fictional place he has created called *The Imaginary World*. His objects have been included in various exhibitions, and his character Mr. Toast appeared in 2004 in the Discovery Channel television show *Big*. His current projects include a co-authored book entitled *Krazy Ad Characters*. He currently lives and works in Los Angeles. www.theimaginaryworld.com

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Kelly Heaton was born in Chapel Hill, North Carolina in 1972. After receiving her BA from Yale University she went on to receive her MS from M.I.T. Her multi-media installations have been included in group exhibitions at the Esther M. Klein Art Gallery, University City Science Center and the Borusan Art Gallery, Turkey. She is represented by Ronald Feldman Gallery, New York and currently lives and works in Switzerland.

http://www.feldmangallery.com/pages/home_frame.html



Walter Martin born in Norfolk, Virginia, and **Paloma Muñoz**, born in Madrid, Spain, have been collaborating since 1993. Their sculptures and installations have been part of several permanent public art projects and countless exhibitions throughout the United States, Europe, and South America. Their current work of subverted snow globes entitled *Travelers* was recently installed at the Wilshire/Normandie Metro Rail Station in Los Angeles. They are represented by the P·P·O·W Gallery and work in Brooklyn, New York. www.martin-munoz.com



Anne Walsh, born in 1962, in New York City, received her BA from the University of Michigan and her MFA from Cal Arts. She has a diverse career as an artist, curator, professor and editor. Her solo work as an artist has been exhibited at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Whitney Museum of American Art, New Museum of Art, and the AIM II exhibition at the Santa Monica Museum of Art. She currently divides her time between Berkley and Los Angeles, California.



8 bit Weapon takes its inspiration from old 8-bit video games as well as electronic music from the '70s and '80s. They create original music using vintage video game consoles (including Classic Nintendo Gameboys, Commodore 64 & 128), synthesizers, old electronics, and a live drum set. Their first full-length album *Vaporware Soundtracks* was released in November 2005. Packaged to look like a floppy disc, the CD features fast-paced synth tracks, including the titles "Sk8 Bit," "GameBoy Rocker," and "Funk Data." www.8bitweapon.com

Location: Otis College of Art and Design, 9045 Lincoln Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90045

Parking: Free visitor parking in structure on La Tijera and on street

Gallery Hours: Tue – Sat: 10a – 5p / Thu: 10a – 7p. Closed Mondays & major holidays.

Gallery Office Hours: Mon – Fri: 10a – 5p

Gallery Admission: Free

Information: 310.665.6905, gallerinfo@otis.edu, www.otis.edu

Gallery Tours: 310.665.6909 to schedule tours for school, museum or other groups.

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