

OTIS

Otis College of Art and Design
9045 Lincoln Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90045
Telephone 310 665 6800 Website www.otis.edu



PRESS CONTACT: Kathy MacPherson (310) 665.6909 kmacpherson@otis.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Otis College of Art and Design to Present Exhibition **MAKE:CRAFT**

A Group Exhibition Highlighting the Current DIY Spirit in Art and Craft

LOS ANGELES – July, 2010 – **Otis College of Art and Design** is pleased to present the exhibition **MAKE:CRAFT**, to be held October 2 through December 4, 2010 at **Ben Maltz Gallery**. A public opening reception takes place Saturday, October 2, 4-6pm, with a performance by Mark Newport and music by Crank Ensemble.

Artists in the exhibition: **Kim Abeles, Jonah Brucker-Cohen, Frau Fiber, Garnet Hertz, Justseeds Artists' Cooperative, Seth Kinmont, Liza Lou, David Prince, Mark Newport, Alyce Santoro, Shada/Jahn (Steve Shada and Marisa Jahn), Eddo Stern.**

Inspired by the cultural currents represented in the popular magazines MAKE and CRAFT published out of Northern California, **MAKE:CRAFT** includes contemporary artists who combine handmaking and building techniques to create, engineer and hack unique, mostly functional devices, objects, machines and accessories; making either a sociopolitical statement, creating new markets for individual styled products, or creating inventive ways to experience the tactile world, non-virtual, the "real."

The exhibition is guest curated by Patricia Watts, founder and west coast curator of ecoartspace, who feels that recent trends in the DIY (Do-It-Yourself) movement of making and crafting have empowered contemporary artists and designers to create more socially relevant work that supports sustainable communities.

Kim Abeles creates a new site-specific installation inspired by her ongoing project *frugalworld*, which includes one of her early projects completed while living in a converted silo in Ohio, a hand illustrated book entitled *Crafts, Cookery, and Country Living* (1976). **Jonah Brucker-Cohen** installs an updated version of *Crank The Web* (2001-), a hand powered Internet tool combining simple automation and current telecommunications technology that allows you to crank your own bandwidth. **Frau Fiber** itinerant textile worker and CEO of *KO Enterprises: indefinitely young apparel production* will present a participatory pedal powered sewing factory knocking off Forever 21 fashions in the Los Angeles area powered by consumers. **Garnet Hertz** introduces *OutRun*, a video game concept car that renders the real world as a 1986 video game, which Hertz will personally demonstrate by driving outdoors on Saturday, November 6.

Justseeds Artists' Cooperative debuts their new 2010 portfolio entitled *RESOURCED* with 26 prints addressing issues of resource extraction and climate. **Seth Kinmont** presents a series of built by hand vehicles as sculpture including models for three variations on mid-19th century European and American coaches, one that has been built as a self-driven hearse and electric car; and his most recent addition, a wooden electric motorbike entitled *Dollar*. **Liza Lou**, LA's "Queen of Beads," includes her work *Loo* (2006), a beaded urinal or simple bathroom fixture transformed into a provocative work of art and homage to Marcel Duchamp. **David Prince's** craftsman persona, *The Lumberjack*, will inhabit the gallery at select times, giving demonstrations of carving simple necessities out of wood such as toothpicks. **Mark Newport** will perform his crime fighter knitting at the opening reception and will display eight of his Superhero Costumes, including his own creations such as *Naftaman* (2008) and *Argyleman* (2007). **Alyce Santoro**, inventor of Sonic Fabric, a textile woven from audiocassette tapes, presents a dress that can be listened to using a jury-rigged Walkman, along with five "philosoprops," or ritual headgear pieces that engage the brain as transmitter-receiver, what Santoro defines as subtle reality technology. **Shada/Jahn (Steve Shada and Marisa Jahn)** investigate engine block cooking in *Commuter Cookout* (2008) a mapped drive of inter-county commuting, and *Thanksgiving Dinner in 5 Seconds* (2009), both addressing energy harvesting and notions of efficiency. **Eddo Stern** presents his latest iteration of the sensory deprivation computer game entitled *Dark Game* (2008-), including multi-player stations and updated headgear. And, a special musical performance at the opening reception by **Crank Ensemble**, including Bay Area artists using handmade and hand cranked instruments, conducted by Larnie Fox.

Patricia Watts is founder and west coast curator of *ecoartspace*, a nonprofit providing a platform for artists addressing environmental issues since 1999. She has curated over 50 exhibitions, written curricula, given lectures internationally and more recently has been involved in the promotion and selection of artists for public art and ecology projects. She was Chief Curator at the Sonoma County Museum from 2005-2008 where she curated *Hybrid Fields* a group exhibition of artists addressing our food systems. Watts is currently working on a statewide multi-venue international exhibition in New Mexico for 2012 entitled *Getting Off the Planet*.

Events and Workshops:

Saturday, October 2, 4-6pm, Opening Reception, Free

Opening reception with a performance by Mark Newport and music by Crank Ensemble.

Saturday, October 16, 1-4pm, Workshop, Free

Frau Fiber presents *Sewing Rebellion: Art of Mending 101*

Reservations and info: 310 846 2579 or ptighe@otis.edu

Saturday, October 23, 9am-Noon, Workshop, \$65

E-Crafting Workshop with Syuzi Pakhchyan

Electronic crafting using conductive threads and fabrics to make interactive, quirky, and fashionable objects. Registration and info: Continuing Education 310 665 6850, otisce@otis.edu

Saturday, November 6, 11am, Tour, Free

Gallery tour with curator Patricia Watts and *OutRun* demonstration by Garnet Hertz followed by a no-host lunch at a local eatery.

Additional support for artist installations provided by the following: Creative Capital, California State University Los Angeles College of Arts and Letters and College of Engineering, Durfee Foundation, Institute for Software Research at University of California Irvine, and the National Science Foundation.

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

Parking & Admission: Free. Visitor parking in structure on La Tijera.

Hours: Tue-Sat 10am-5pm / Thu 10am-7pm. Closed Sunday, Monday and Nov 24-28.

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

Gallery Info: 310.665.6905, galleryinfo@otis.edu, www.otis.edu/benmaltzgallery

About Otis: Founded in Los Angeles in 1918, Otis College of Art and Design prepares diverse students of art and design to enrich the world through their creativity, their skill, and their vision. The College offers an interdisciplinary education for 1200 full-time students, awarding BFA degrees in Advertising, Architecture/Landscape/Interiors, Digital Media, Fashion Design, Illustration, Graphic Design, Product Design, Painting, Photography, Sculpture/New Genres, and Toy Design; and MFA degrees in Fine Arts, Graphic Design, Public Practice, and Writing. Continuing Education offers certificate programs as well as personal and professional development courses. Additional information is available at <http://www.otis.edu>.

Images above L-R: Shada/Jahn (Steve Shada and Marisa Jahn), *Commuter Cookout* (Los Angeles), 2010; Justseeds Artists' Cooperative, *RESOURCED*, 2010; Instrument used by Crank Ensemble.

Images below, clockwise: Mark Newport, *Naftaman*, 2008; Alyce Santoro, *Satellite Dish Hat*, 2000; Seth Kinmont, *Self-Driven Hearse*, 2006; Liza Lou, *Loo*, 2006; Garnet Hertz, *Outrun*, 2010; David Prince, *Toothpicks*, 2010; Stephen Shada & Marisa Jahn, *Turkey Dinner in 5 Seconds*, 2010.

