

# OTIS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Otis College of Art and Design to Present a Group Exhibition

## *This Little Piggy...*

### *Five Meditations on the Role of the Artist in a Capitalist Market*

**LOS ANGELES** – June 8, 2011 – **Otis College of Art and Design** is pleased to present the exhibition *This Little Piggy...*, to be held June 25 through September 1, 2011 at the **Bolsky Gallery**. A public opening reception takes place Saturday, June 25, 4-6pm.

Artists in the exhibition: **Cake and Eat It, Jamie Crooke, Hanna Kovenock, Shalini Sanjay Patel, Gabi Vru**. Curator: **Paige Tighe**

*This Little Piggy...* is a group exhibition that explores how artists enter their ideas and objects into the economic and social structures of our culture, and how they navigate a system driven solely by capital gain. How do they define, mediate, frustrate and challenge their relationship to the market? How can they use their art to slow, divert, critique, and possibly change the gluttonous momentum of consumer culture? *This Little Piggy...* goes to market with five Otis artists who propose new questions and possibilities in their role as the latest culture-creators in an unstable global economy.

**Cake and Eat It** presents a gift exchange presented as five wall-mounted sculptural works that hold masses of colorful used clothing behind Plexiglas. Though sculptural in their appearance, these works reference the presentation of formal painting. Viewers are invited to pull free clothes from holes in the boxes. The work questions the history of painting and distribution/ownership of art, while participating in a “gift economy” and simultaneously existing as seductive art objects. [www.cakeandeatit.org](http://www.cakeandeatit.org)

With her moveable sculpture/performance/act-of-kindness, *Health Care À La Carte*, **Jamie Crooke** distributes free medical supplies on the streets of East LA and capitalizes on creating moments where art and social responsibility connect. <http://www.jamiecrooke.com/saveyourself/>

**Hanna Kovenock**'s paintings are portraits of people she meets in her unearthing of Los Angeles. She paints from life, often asking her subjects during the sittings about their dreams and desires, which she incorporates into the paintings. In contrast to the frenzy and fast editing of reality TV, these “everyday” people find a similar instant celebrity through a slow painting tradition that goes back centuries. Brush stroke by brush stroke, meeting by meeting, Kovenock creates the present reality of Southern California. <http://ospace.otis.edu/hkovenock/gallery>

**Shalini Sanjay Patel** presents a conceptual catalog created specifically for the exhibition. The artist questions the use of catalogs as arbiters of provenance in the manufacturing of value. Besieged by thoughts of ownership and distribution of art, her non-catalog is woven into the presentation of the exhibition and other promotional materials for the show.

Through film and photography, **Gabi Vru** retells the story of being a woman to create alternative myths produced by mainstream culture. Using the myth of Adam and Eve, countering classic beauty with slabs of meat, and sitting in a chair and banging herself into a corner, she challenges mainstream media's wholesale marketing of prescribed, pre-packaged desire.

**Curator Paige Tighe** holds an MFA from the OTIS Public Practice Program and is the current Ben Maltz Gallery Curatorial Fellow. She is a post-modern dancer, visual artist, and founding member of the karaoke-performance troupe *Pedestal and the All Girl Band*. Tighe is currently assisting in the coordination and curation of the landmark exhibition *Doin' It in Public: Feminism and Art at the Woman's Building*, part of the Getty Foundation's larger initiative *Pacific Standard Time: Art in LA 1945-1980* opening October 1, 2011. *This Little Piggy...* is her curatorial debut.

**Public Programming:**

**Saturday, June 25, 4-6pm**, Free: Opening Reception

**Saturday, July 23, 12:30pm**, Free: Tour of exhibition led by Curator, Paige Tighe

**Saturday, September 1, 3-5pm**, Free: Closing Reception

**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 / Thu 10am-7pm. Closed Sundays and Mondays, Closed July 1-4

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

**Gallery Info:** 310.665.6905, [galleryinfo@otis.edu](mailto:galleryinfo@otis.edu), [www.otis.edu/benmaltzgallery](http://www.otis.edu/benmaltzgallery)



Image at top of release: Gabi Vru, *The Story of Adam & Eve*, 2010

Images above L-R: *Cake and Eat It, Untitled #9*, 2009; Jamie Crooke, *Health Care À La Carte* detail, 2010;

Jamie Crooke, *Health Care À La Carte*, 2010, Hanna Kovenock, *Bomber House 2.0*, 2010

**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>.

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