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MILLS

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE LAST SHOW ON EARTH

Mills College 2012 MFA Exhibition

Susanna Corcoran, Madelyn Covey, Matthew Gottschalk, Samuel Levi Jones, Michael Koehle, Jocelyn Meggait, Michael Mersereau, Seth Murchison, Camilla Newhagen, Tressa Pack, Kent Rodriguez Segura, Sofia Sharpe

Exhibition Dates: April 28–May 27, 2012

Opening Reception: Saturday, April 28, 6:00 pm–9:00 pm

Closing Panel Discussion: Saturday, May 26, 2012, 4:00 pm–5:30 pm

Oakland, CA—March 28, 2012. The Mills College Art Museum announces *The Last Show on Earth*, the thesis exhibition for the 2012 Master of Fine Arts degree recipients, on view April 28–May 27, 2012.

The Last Show on Earth, the culmination of two years of study by a promising group of emerging artists, alludes to both predictions of an imminent global apocalypse and the smaller cataclysm of the completion of graduate school. The body of work presented is a testament to the artists' short but prolific lives as graduate students.

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Through her painting, video and crochet work, **Madelyn Covey** explores the connection between metaphorical extensions of the body as well as tangible extensions of the body, and how they express one's identity. She is interested in the intersection of the medical with the magical, and the power of transformation. **Kent Rodriguez Segura** addresses the collective memory of people living under present day Mexican narcoterrorismo. Through observation and the collection of stories from family, friends and people he encounters during trips to Central Mexico, Segura constructs a visual reinterpretation of how these people navigate the social, physical and psychological Mexican landscape today.

Seth Murchison creates outlines for events, projects and activities designed for friends and his community. These include elements of art history, theater, food or film and rely on participation to create content and direction. **Jocelyn Meggait** presents *The Utopian Free Economy Project*, a socially interactive installation in which all objects are offered for free with one small caveat—consider the objects past, present and future economic and ecological presence.

Matthew Gottschalk creates stand-ins, decoys, props and doppelgangers for art. His studio is a stage where he plays many roles, some tragic and others heroic; such as the saint, the demon, the genius and the idiot. **Michael Mersereau** investigates the formal and mythological aspects of cinema, dissecting critical parts such as sound and image and revealing new meaning through time and structure.

Sofia Sharpe re-purposes tools and hardware as nonfunctional, aesthetic objects. By discarding the idea of their intended function she explores their ability to play with imagination. **Camilla Newhagen** stacks objects in a way that emulates a natural process—a geological layering of strata. Using clothing as a historical and a cultural layering of strata, challenges gravity and documents the growing structure, exposing its own possibility of collapse.

The act of blurring fact and fiction is inherent in being a photographer. **Tressa Pack** explores this duality in her images by revealing her photographic tools within otherwise impersonal landscapes. **Samuel Levi Jones** is interested in power structures and specifically how decisions are made in giving various forms of public recognition.

By intervening in the commonplace, **Susanna Corcoran** creates temporary situations to photograph. Her work reveals the gap between one's memory of an experience and what actually happened. **Michael Koehle** uses existing medium or technology, such as photography, video or medical imaging, in a new way to reveal an unseen depth and complexity in seemingly mundane objects.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

The Last Show on Earth Opening Reception

Saturday, April 28, 2012 6:00 pm-9:00 pm

Location: Mills College Art Museum

Free shuttle service provided between West Oakland Bart and Mills College from 5:30-9:30pm.

Visit mcam.mills.edu for schedule.

Join the MFA graduate class of 2012 as they celebrate the opening of their thesis exhibition, *The Last Show On Earth*. Refreshments provided by Gerard's Paella. Music by The Local Honey Swing Band.

The Last Show on Earth Closing Panel Discussion

Saturday, May 26, 2012 4:00-5:30 pm

Location: Danforth Hall, Mills College

A conversation with the MFA artists, moderated by Mills Visiting Assistant Professor, Stephanie Ellis.

Image: Jocelyn Meggait, The Utopian Free Economy Project, 2012

About the Mills College Art Museum

Founded in 1925, The Mills College Art Museum is a forum for exploring art and ideas and a laboratory for contemporary art practices. Through innovative exhibitions, programs, and collections, the museum engages and inspires the intellectual and creative life of the Mills community as well as the diverse audiences of the Bay Area and beyond. For more information, visit <http://mcam.mills.edu>

About Mills College

Nestled in the foothills of Oakland, California, Mills College is a nationally renowned, independent liberal arts college offering a dynamic progressive education that fosters leadership, social responsibility, and creativity to over 950 undergraduate women and more than 600 graduate women and men. The College ranks as one of the Best 373 Colleges in the country and one of the greenest colleges in the nation by The Princeton Review. U.S. News & World Report ranked Mills one of the top-tier regional universities in the country and second among colleges and universities in the West in its "Great Schools, Great Prices" category. For more information, visit <http://www.mills.edu>

For more information and images, contact Maysoun Wazwaz at 510.430.3340 or mwazwaz@mills.edu. Museum hours are Tuesday-Sunday 11 am–4 pm and Wednesday 11 am–7:30 pm. Admission is FREE for all exhibitions and programs unless noted.

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