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EXHIBITION:

Re-figurative Ordering

Michael Blum, Carola Dertnig, Richard Hawkins, Catherine Lord, Yong Soon Min, Henrik Olesen, and Dee Williams

Gallery II: Gregori Maiofis: *Proverbs*

SHOW DATES:

June 27 – August 29, 2009

RECEPTION:

Saturday, June 27, 6-8 pm

GALLERY HOURS:

Tuesday - Saturday 10-6 pm

DNJ Gallery is pleased to announce its upcoming exhibition, "Re-figurative Ordering," a group show curated by artist Kaucyila Brooke that features the work of European and American artists who use photography, text, and collage to address their own interpretations of historical subjects. Borrowing from the architectural and art historical concept of figurative ordering, the artists in "Re-figurative Ordering" open a dialogue about cultural perspectives and differences, while playfully *re-combining* and *re-ordering* their material with results that are often ambiguous, uncanny, and unpredictable.

Guest curator, Kaucyila Brooke, is an artist who produces photo and text narratives for installations and publications. Her 2008 book, "Vitrinen in Arbeit," was published by Verlag Schaden in Cologne and is distributed in the U.S. by RAM Publications in Santa Monica. She is the former Director of the Program in Photography and Media at Cal-Arts, where she has been a regular faculty member since 1992.

Henrik Olesen (Denmark/Germany) and Carola Dertnig (Austria) both use text and image to reference history and performance. The life of British mathematician Alan Turing (1912-1954), considered the father of computer science, is the phantom subject of Olesen's work "Some Illustrations to the life of Alan Turing (5)" (2008). Turing's biography provides the point of departure for more abstract reflections on both the construction of identity and physicality. Dertnig's collages of documentary systems oscillate between screenplay excerpts and performance (dance) or stage arrangements. Her work demonstrates an illustration of time.

Re-examining different cultures, Richard Hawkin's (USA) works on paper include photographic reproductions, also in collage form. His classical Greek statues re-invigorate the archaic forms. Likewise, in the state archives of Dominica, an island nation in the Caribbean Sea, Catherine Lord (USA) found four leather-bound ledgers that accounted for every enslaved body upon the island between the years 1821 and 1834. This series of ink-jet prints entitled "Register" (2005-2008) are part of an ongoing encyclopedic work entitled "The Effect of Tropical Light on White Men."

While researching in the library at Chaffey College, Dee Williams (USA) found several folders that recorded the college's attitude towards women students and their participation in different fields of study, such as photography and science. Founded in 1883, Chaffey College, a two-year public community college, is one of the first colleges to be established in California. "Untitled Video" (2007) displays the order of images in these folders and encourages the viewers to translate them.

Investigating ideas of loss, Michael Blum (France/Austria) designed a book "potlatch.doc" (2001) that uses assorted imagery (advertisement, photo-journalism, snapshot, illustration, children's books, archive, etc.), to unravel what might be considered a potlatch—a waste or an unproductive expense. Select pages from this book will be on display at the gallery.

In her work "Springtimes of Castro and Kim" (2009), Yong Soon Min (USA/Korea) uses photography to appropriate a formal portrait of Fidel Castro and Kim Il Sung that she observed at a small museum that housed a collection of traditional and contemporary art during a recent trip to Havana. The final product is a stacked pile of posters that gallery patrons may take home with them.

Gallery II presents the work of a Russian artist Gregori Maiofis, entitled "Proverbs." The subjects in these black and white photographs have literary, artistic and historical references, and result in striking images that are both playful and dark. Using an early, 20th-century photographic process called *bromoil*, which combines fine art photography, printmaking and painting, Maiofis creates works of painterly and timeless quality, yet his images are instilled with his own contemporary vision.

Please contact the gallery for more information or images.