Detritus: An exhibition of art from recycled or found art materials

Ellie Brown

Greg Bugel

Linda Byrne

Ben Collura

Sally Edelstein

See next page for additional authors

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Artists
Ellie Brown, Greg Bugel, Linda Byrne, Ben Collura, Sally Edelstein, Matthew Gosser, Shandor Hassan, Jodi Hays, Tracy Heneberger, Paivi Hintsanen, Kathy Hughes, Edwin Jager, Barbara Martinson, Nyugen Smith, Ilona Staples, Charlee Swanson, and Peter Wilson

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The Puffin Foundation
Shandro Hassan – Untitled I

In this work, Hassan places the formal elements of texture, shape and line in contrast with perceived tension and balance. Is the ladder collapsing or opening? The result is an unwavering sensation that something is just about to happen or perhaps has just occurred. With the addition of the balloon sphere, the aged ladder no longer seems like a deceptively discard, but rather takes on the role of an integral and essential protagonist. All of the elements involved in this work are very purposeful. What easily could have been thrown aside as trash is newly empowered due to the artist’s skillful construction.

Jody Hay – For Lee, For the Gaps, For Johnny Cash

From a collection of mixed media sculpture called The Strongest of Us Are So Thin, Hays draws on the fragility inherent to flower bouquets to create diminutive sculptures grandly imbued with personal histories and details. Using a mixture of scavenged objects such as taffy wrappers, cigarettes, wire and fabric with objects embedded with more personal memories such as her late grandmother’s false teeth, Hays compels us to explore and investigate her intricately constructed personal memorials.

Ben Collura – Can Couch, Torso, Ar+chaeology

Gosser profits from his formal training as an architect in addressing the relationship between man, nature and the landscape. The trees have been exhibited inside as well as outside, and reflect the artist’s desire to preserve the natural environment using the inevitable build-up of man-made materials to create new environments.

Linda Byrne – Pendulous Nest 1

Discarded popular books serve as the foundation for Ellie Brown’s work. Brown alters text books and books sent home for young adults and teenagers in the mid-20th century, often humorouslyarking similar images, photos and diagrams from the book itself into telling juxtapositions with the book’s title and cover art. Her work examines the role that popular culture literature has played in shaping our perceptions of gender and youth culture, and the complicated subtext behind the reading material she has salvaged.

Greg Bugel – Umbrella 2.7

Greg Bugel’s umbrella trees are comprised of the remnants of umbrellas found by the artist near his home. The umbrella frames are combined into individual structures and then displayed together to create a movable landscape. The trees have been exhibited inside as well as outside, and reflect the artist’s desire to preserve the natural environment using the inevitable build-up of man-made materials to create new environments.

Linda Byrne’s Pendulous Nest 1 is an example of one of the artist’s many explorations using recyclable materials to recreate the look of objects found in nature. Originally displayed as part of a series of polephenest, this piece mimics the color and texture of down used in the lining of bird’s nests to provide shelter for their offspring.

Tracy Heneberger – Cool White, Wrath

Heneberger works with truly unique media. He create art using diverse materials such as mushrooms and dried fish. “The process of physical transformation is usually accumulative in nature,” says the artist. Heneberger often pieces his works together from many small parts because “working with fragments to create larger systems and forms is an act of ritual and faith.”

Flavi Hintsanen – Unraveled Words

Finland’s artist Hintsanen has been involved with the web since the beginning of the internet era in the mid-90’s. In Unraveled Words she introduces us to the concept of digital detritus in the form of spam. All the unsolicited spam she received during November 2004 has been collected, alphabetized and organized. The final work exhibited in the gallery does not represent a definitive form; in fact, visitors are encouraged to download her spam and audio files at http://www.colibri.net/digart/uninvited in order to manipulate the content to their own artistic end.

Kathy Hughes – Mary I, Mary II, Mary V

Upon returning to her Katrina in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, Hughes sought to transform the visions of devastation she saw there to create something beautiful. The images of the Mary statues were taken throughout the city and each is accompanied by a piece of debris that was found near the statue. By doing this, Hughes hoped to transform these reminders of the destruction of her home into sacred, meditative objects, as well as small memorials to those who lost everything.

Edwin Jager – Book Implosion (First Course in Algebra), Book Implosion (Thomsoner + Barndavl, Junior Dictionary), Book Implosion (Strength of Materials)

A widely exhibiting artist, Jager uses his art to convey complex and intriguing ideas. The Book Implosion series explores the book as a physical artifact versus a source of information. Jager questions the necessity of books within the advent of new technologies that make it possible to access huge amounts of information easily. The old dictionaries and test books still contain their original information, although the content has been made inaccessible through the application of constricting metal clamps.

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