

2003 PRC MEMBERS' EXHIBITION Showcases Photographic Talent in Juried Show

June 20-July 27, 2003

Opening reception, Thursday, June 19, 5:30-7:30pm



Rebecca Sittler, *The Flood*, C-Print, 20 x 16 inches

Each year, the Photographic Resource Center at Boston University is pleased to host a juried exhibition for its members. This year, 15 photographers were selected out of over 125 submissions. The objective for this prestigious exhibition perhaps rings even more true than when it was first announced in the PRC newsletter in 1996: "[the Members' show] signals the Center's deepening commitment to area artists and its support of the range of photography produced in the New England region."

PRC members' show history

The 2003 *PRC Members' Exhibition* represents the eighth incarnation of this event. As PRC membership extends over New England and beyond, this is a great opportunity to view a slice of the best and brightest as well as see topics in which contemporary minds are engaged. The *PRC Members' Exhibition* is a testament to the depth of talent in the PRC membership. In total, over 185 photographers have shown in the *PRC Members' Exhibitions*—representing both established photographers and those cited as “ones to watch”. Guest jurors represent esteemed curators, photographers and photography professionals. Past jurors of the *PRC Members' Exhibition* have included: Diana Gaston, Independent Curator; Deborah Kao, Curator of Photography, Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University; Richard Woodward, Editor at Large, Doubletake Magazine; Edward Earle, Curator of Digital Media, International Center of Photography.

About the 2003 juror, Chris Enos

Holding an MFA in photography from the San Francisco Art Institute, Enos has been making and exhibiting art for over 30 years. She has taught at Harvard University, Smith College, RISD, and the University of New Hampshire. Garnering numerous awards, Enos's work is found in prestigious museums such as the George Eastman House, Harvard's Fogg Art Museum, J. Paul Getty Museum, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. In response to the burgeoning photographic community, Enos founded the PRC in 1976 in her Boston loft. Initially a newsletter and a legendary sponsor of famous speakers, the PRC later added a 4,000-volume library and acclaimed gallery space to its offerings. In February 2003, the PRC moved to a street level, storefront location at 832 Commonwealth Avenue, its fourth "on-campus" home since the independent non-profit became affiliated with BU in 1978.

Photographers Highlighted

Melonie Bennett
John Chervinsky
Phyllis Crowley
Tony DeBone
Erik Gould
Bob Gulley
M. Alyssa Jones
Frazier King
Stefanie Klavens
Evie Lovett
Neeta Madahar
Rebecca Sittler
Guillermo Srodek-Hart
Sonia Targontsidis
Wayne Welke

**Juror, Chris Enos, artist,
educator, and founder of
the PRC**

ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHERS

Melonie Bennett (Gorham, ME) has been photographically observing her family and friends during everyday rituals and social events. Through this visual diary of her fascinating circle, Bennett reveals the extraordinary in the ordinary. **John Chervinsky** (Somerville, MA) cites music and surrealism as inspirations for his series of playful still lifes. Using various tubers as his cast of characters, he presents familiar objects that appear to do unfamiliar things: jumping, spooning, hovering, or oozing. However fanciful they appear at first, these beautiful floating botanics also allude to and comment upon “high art” photographic nudes and landscapes. **Phyllis Crowley** (New Haven, CT) examines the body, magnified in her series “Earthly and Heavenly Bodies”. By juxtaposing close-ups with scientific imagery drawn from scientific textbooks, she questions the intersections between art and science, knowledge and the unknown. **Tony DeBone** (Oakland, CA) uses the 20 x 24 Polaroid camera to record those who adorn themselves and are often considered out of the mainstream. Over the past 10 years, he has been featuring individuals from Drag and Fetish scenes in New York and San Francisco. These unique images are transferred to watercolor paper and then hand colored and altered. **Erik Gould** (Providence, RI) draws inspiration from the built environment in his ongoing work for the fictional Rhode Island Photographic Survey. Using such conceits as “Twenty Major Intersections in Rhode Island,” Gould composes grids of photographs that reflect his interests in sites of local unimportance, signage and personal expression, and locales of flux and flow.

Bob Gulley (Houston, TX) has been documenting the urban blight of the Fifth Ward section of Houston, TX. Through this project, he hopes to highlight the human will to survive and lift the veil on social conditions. **M. Alyssa Jones’s** (Salem, MA) frank portraits are from an ongoing series titled: “Reflecting an Honest Image: Portraits of Lesbians and Bisexual Women.” In order to provide an alternative to stereotypes perpetuated by advertising, Jones allows each sitter to choose her own clothing, location, and props. **Frazier King** (Houston, TX) transforms orchids into creatures that allude to a human presence. Using orchids that he raises himself, he captures their likenesses using a 4 x 5 camera, then enhances the surreal qualities of the biomorphic blossoms through solarization and subsequent toning of the black and white prints. **Stefanie Klavens** (Boston, MA) seeks to capture portraits of places through her large-scale color photographs. By isolating the effects of a person or place, she explores the intersection of private and public. **Evie Lovett** (Putney, VT) presents intimate glimpses of behind-the-scenes preparation for the monthly drag shows at the Rainbow Cattle Company in rural Vermont. Quietly contemplative, her sensitive compositions touch upon themes of transformation and beauty.

Neeta Madahar (Framingham, MA) investigates ideas surrounding the idea of dwelling: belonging and migration, routine and repetition in her new series of dioramas, *Sustenance*. An outgrowth of her study of domestic interiors, Madahar has been photographing various species that visit the feeder outside her apartment balcony using a large format camera. **Rebecca Sittler** (Jamaica Plain, MA) plays with art historical references and surrealist tendencies in her constructed still-lives. Using a simple title or a challenge presented by the objects themselves as her starting point, Sittler creates strange and unusual juxtapositions on an ordinary stage. **Guillermo Srodek-Hart** (Cambridge, MA) photographs animals from their point of view in an effort to examine the human world. Thus, the animals in *Animalia* occupy the foreground, while the human presence is reduced to a shadowy blur in the background. **Sonia Targontsidis** (Jamaica Plain, MA) uses her mother and father as models in a continuing effort to confront her fears regarding their mortality. Her exquisitely composed and lit compositions recall Flemish or Renaissance portraits. **Wayne Welke** (Cambridge, MA) explores the male figure at middle age. His self-portraits are made entirely in camera with open flash in a single exposure. A trained architect, Welke enjoys the sense of spontaneity and fractured space afforded him in photography.

For more information contact:

Leslie Brown, Curator
832 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, MA 02215
(617) 975-0600, (617) 975-0606 (fax)
email: lbrown@bu.edu

Who and where we are: The Photographic Resource Center is a non-profit organization that exists to facilitate the study and dissemination of information related to photography. Operating from the campus of Boston University, it provides a highly acclaimed exhibition program, a bi-monthly newsletter, lectures, workshops, special events, and a 4,000-volume resource library to our members and the general public. It is supported by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the Boston Cultural Council, as well as by numerous private foundations, and the ongoing generosity of its members. The Photographic Resource Center is located at 832 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA, 02215 (BU West T stop on the B Green Line), 617-975-0600 (phone), 617-975-0606 (fax), email prc@bu.edu. Hours are Tuesday through Friday from 10 to 6pm, Thursdays from 10 to 8pm, Saturday and Sunday 12-5pm. The PRC is always free to members and to school groups with appointments. The PRC is fully accessible.

***PLEASE NOTE: THE PRC WILL BE CLOSED THE FOURTH OF JULY WEEKEND (JULY 4th THROUGH 6th).
THE PRC CLOSURES FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST.***