

CORCORAN

GALLERY OF ART • COLLEGE of ART + DESIGN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 23, 2011

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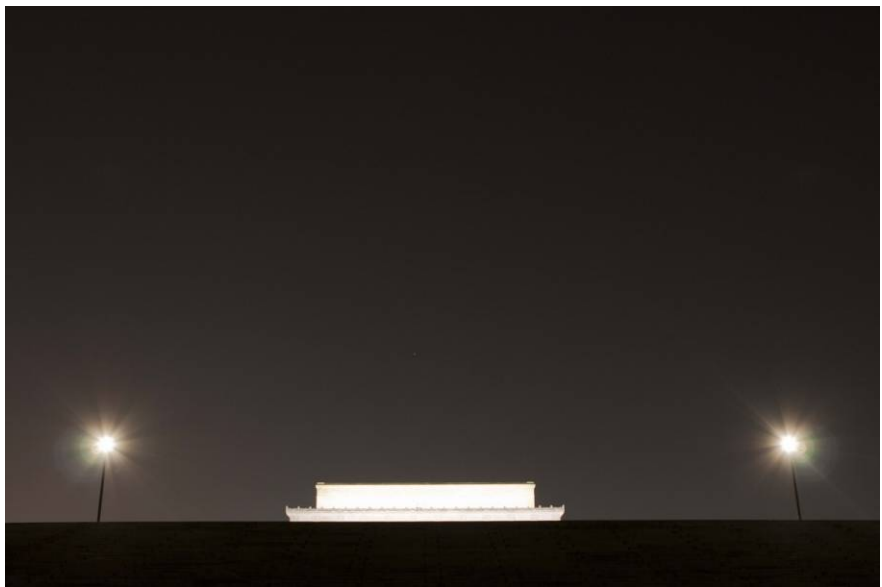
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**CORCORAN GALLERY OF ART AND COLLEGE OF ART + DESIGN
PRESENTS *NEXT AT THE CORCORAN: BFA CLASS OF 2011*
April 23–May 22, 2011**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design presents *NEXT at the Corcoran: BFA Class of 2011* (April 23–May 22), a dynamic, interactive, and innovative exhibition featuring the thesis work of the senior students in the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree program at the Corcoran. With emphasis on the process that students undergo to create their final thesis projects, the exhibition features the work of each senior in design, fine art,



and photography. In celebration of their achievements, admission to the Corcoran will be FREE during the run of the show. Visit a dedicated Website for the exhibition at www.corcoran.org/next.

Alongside the Corcoran’s contemporary program, *NOW at the Corcoran*, the student exhibition celebrates the accomplishments of the graduating seniors and confirms the Corcoran’s commitment to showcasing emerging artists. For more than 120 years, the Corcoran has educated and trained students – the next generation of America’s artists – while displaying the most important works of the time.

“The student work is topical and exciting, as well as issue-oriented for this generation of artists and designers,” said Catherine Armour, provost of the Corcoran College of Art + Design. “The exhibition celebrates the accomplishments of the graduating seniors and highlights the quality of the Corcoran educational experience.”

Design elements of *NEXT* – including exhibition graphics, print and online collateral - were developed by Design Lab, an undergraduate course that works as an in-house design studio, offering a select group of students the unique opportunity to design and oversee production of projects for the Corcoran.

“When I took on teaching this class, I felt it was particularly important for a student group to work specifically on *NEXT*,” said Maria Habib, the Corcoran's director of design and the instructor of Design Lab. “As a true



collaboration between the Gallery and College this exhibition should be designed for students, by students, specifically to showcase the wealth of talent in our College.”

Students gain experience interacting with clients, managing deadlines, understanding and working within the limitations of their projects, and scheduling timelines. Elements of the design process covered in the course include writing design briefs and contracts, conceptual and design development phases, producing print-ready artwork, and fabrication coordination and supervision. The team consists of student designers in their junior year, along with a Design Lab Manager position filled by a graduate – a senior – from the previous semester.

Visitors to *NEXT* have the unique opportunity to observe thesis critiques—discussions between the artists and their peers and instructors—and gain insights into the artists' intentions.

NEXT AT THE CORCORAN GALLERY TALK SERIES

In celebration of the accomplishments of seniors graduating from the Bachelor of Fine Art program, Corcoran Gallery of Art curators and staff – along with select seniors - will lead FREE dynamic public discussions about final thesis works on view. To register, visit www.corcoran.org/next.



Wednesday, May 4; 1 p.m.

Free with Gallery admission; pre-registration encouraged

Sarah Newman, curator of contemporary art, discusses final thesis projects with **Emilia Olsen**, **Forest Allread**, and **Casey Goldman** of the Fine Arts program.

Wednesday, May 11; 1 p.m.

Free with Gallery admission; pre-registration encouraged

Amanda Maddox, associate curator of photography, discusses the work of **Christopher Cunningham** and **Madeline Marshall** of the Photojournalism program,

and **Cortlandt Glover** and **Jordan Swartz** of the Fine Art Photography program.

Wednesday, May 18; 1 p.m.

Free with Gallery admission; pre-registration encouraged

Maria Habib, director of design at the Corcoran Gallery of Art, discusses the final thesis projects of **Tyson Whiting**, **Victor Ware**, and **Abdalla Khashoggi** of the Graphic Design and Digital Media programs.

RELATED PROGRAMMING

Meet the Corcoran's Next Artists

Thursday, May 12; 7 p.m.

Free with Gallery admission; pre-registration encouraged

In this lively panel discussion, moderated by Corcoran College of Art + Design associate faculty member and coordinator of senior fine arts core **Mark Cameron Boyd**, graduating seniors **Christopher Cunningham**, **Emilia Olsen**, and **Abdalla Khashoggi** discuss the inspiration, process, and intentions behind select works on view in *NEXT at the Corcoran: BFA Class of 2011*. The group will explore the definitions of their artwork in terms of the larger theories and practices of art making. This unique discussion between artists is not to be missed. Following the conversation, guests are invited to view the *NEXT* exhibition.

Art/Poetry: Bill Berkson & Cole Swensen

Friday May 13; 7:30 p.m.

Free with Gallery admission; pre-registration encouraged

Join **Bill Berkson** and **Cole Swensen**, two of America's leading poets, as they perform a reading of recent work. The author of over 20 books of poetry, art criticism, and translation, Bill Berkson's career spans the past fifty years. His most recent books include *Portrait and Dream: New & Selected Poems*; and a collection of art writings, *For the Ordinary Artist*. From 1984 to 2008 he taught art history and literature at the San Francisco Art Institute. Cole Swensen is the author of over a dozen books of poetry and translation, and with David St. John edited *American Hybrid: A Norton Anthology of New Poetry*. In 2006, she was awarded a Guggenheim fellowship. She currently teaches at the University of Iowa.

Student poets from the Corcoran's graduating Bachelors of Fine Arts degree program will hold a reading in the Auditorium prior to this program. That reading begins at 6 p.m.

ABOUT NOW AT THE CORCORAN

NOW at the Corcoran is the Gallery's contemporary art program dedicated to exhibitions of work by emerging and mid-career artists, highlighting work that addresses issues central to local, national, and global communities while simultaneously responding to the collections, history, and architecture of the museum. *NOW* programming has a dynamic and integrated relationship with the Corcoran College of Art + Design. As the only visual arts college in Washington, D.C., the Corcoran College of Art + Design's active base of practicing art students and faculty make it a natural center for creating, displaying, and thinking about contemporary art. The inaugural exhibition, *Spencer Finch: My Business, with the Cloud* (September 11, 2010 – January 23, 2011)



featured a commissioned, site-specific installation in the Corcoran Rotunda. To view the exhibition video, visit www.corcoran.org/finch.

This summer, the **Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design** will premiere *Chris Martin: Painting Big* (June 18 – October 23), marking the abstract painter’s first-ever solo museum exhibition and the first exhibition of his work in Washington, D.C. The three-part exhibition includes large-scale, commissioned paintings in the Corcoran’s central Atrium, a focused selection of works from the past nine years in the NOW Gallery, and a dense assemblage of small paintings in the Corcoran Rotunda. *Chris Martin: Painting Big* is the artist’s first one-artist museum exhibition. For more information, visit www.corcoran.org/martin.

ABOUT THE CORCORAN

The Corcoran Gallery of Art, a privately funded institution, was founded in 1869 as Washington’s first and largest nonfederal museum of art. It is known internationally for its distinguished collection of historical and modern American art as well as contemporary art, photography, European painting, sculpture, and the decorative arts. Founded in 1890, the Corcoran College of Art + Design is Washington’s only four-year college of art and design offering BFA degrees in Digital Media Design, Fine Art, Fine Art Photography, Graphic Design, Interior Design, and Photojournalism; a BA in Art Studies; a five-year Bachelor of Fine Arts/Master of Arts in Teaching (BFA/MAT); an AFA in Digital Media Design, Fine Art, Graphic Design, and Photography; and MA degrees in Art and the Book, Art Education, Exhibition Design, Interior Design, Master of Arts in Teaching, and New Media Photojournalism. The College’s Continuing Education program offers part-time credit and non-credit classes for children and adults and draws more than 2,500 participants each year. For more information about the Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design, visit www.corcoran.org.

Images:

Page one: Matt Borowick, *Vision in the Darkness*, 2010. Archival inkjet print, 20 x 30 inches. Courtesy of the artist.

Page two: Courtesy Corcoran Design Lab

Page two: Tim Anderson, *Untitled*, Knotweed Series, 2011. Archival inkjet print, 18 x 14 inches. Courtesy of the artist.

Page three: Chris Martin, *Isaac Hayes Painting*, 2006. Oil and mixed media on canvas, 59 1/8 x 64 1/8 inches. Courtesy of the artist and Mitchell-Innes & Nash, New York.

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