



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SAN DIEGO ART PRIZE EXHIBITION: *DISCOMBOBULATED*

Featuring Works by Kim MacConnel and Brian Dick

April 25th – July 20th, 2009

Opening Reception: Sat. April 25th, 7pm – 9pm

Location: 628 L Street, San Diego, CA 92101

San Diego, CA (April 6, 2009) - The San Diego Visual Art's Network, SanDiegoArtist.com and the Omni San Diego Hotel are the proud sponsors of the San Diego Art Prize now in its third year. The Prize is given annually to several established and several emerging artists who have exhibited outstanding achievement in the field of Visual Arts. The Prize recipients will receive a cash grant and an exhibition at L Street Fine Gallery. Each exhibition will pair an established artist with an emerging artist.

The first exhibition in the 2009 series, *Discombobulated* will begin April 25th with an opening reception from 7pm - 9pm at the L Street Fine Art Gallery and will be on view through July 20th, 2009. Kim MacConnel selected Brian Dick as the emerging artist that he wanted to exhibit with in this exhibition.

MacConnel will be showing the *Age of Plastic* series, a precursor to those new works, in this exhibition. The title is an ironic reference to the Guggenheim's 1993 sculpture exhibition *The Age of Steel*. MacConnel chose two of the most despicable trends of our times that he could think of....clowns and beach trash and used the cleverest of combinations to make trash into treasure. In his March 1995 article in *Art In American*, Michael Duncan says, "With its eye-grabbing commercial palette and hard-candy texture, plastic rubble provides a perfect medium for MacConnel..... MacConnel's clowns are both formally rigorous and playful, yet their lowly medium heads off any possibility of pretentiousness." Kim MacConnel is represented by [Quint Contemporary Art](#), La Jolla and [Rosamund Felsen Gallery, Santa Monica](#)

Born in Oklahoma City, MacConnel's family comes from San Diego but he was raised on both coasts and in the Texas and Mexico as well. He currently teaches at the University of California, San Diego. The first showing of the *Age of Plastic* was at Holly Solomon Gallery, New York followed by Thomas Solomon's Garage, Los Angeles and finally *Clowntown* was displayed at the Quint Gallery, San Diego all in 1994. This series was included in *Kim MacConnel- - Selected works from 1974 - 1996*, at the California Center for the Arts, Escondido, California in 1997 and *Parrot Talk: A Retrospective of Works by Kim MacConnel* curated by Michael Duncan, Santa Monica Museum of Art, Santa Monica, California in 2003. *Clowning Around* was shown at Margeaux Kurtie Modern Art, Madrid, New Mexico in 2001.



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"Brian Dick's art constructed from everyday vernacular materials emerges from a process of play and are purposefully temporary-not works meant to last over time. Each morning since 1997 whether at home, visiting family or on a vacation trip, Dick transforms the mattress, sheets, pillows, blankets, and even the frame of the bed into a temporary sculpture, costume or performance. Dick documents these creations and actions with color photography. The ten year duration of the series, *Making My Bed*, is a testament to Dick's commitment to the idea as well as to his self-imposed ritual. The results are: a bump in a mattress caused by the bedding, which has been placed underneath it; diapered monster outfit and mask (performed by the artist's mother); or an upright totem. For a new project, Dick has been designing mascots for select museums constructed from recycled clothing, crocheted afghan throws, and consumable domestic materials such as paper cups and clothes pins. In so doing, museums are thereby treated to the same emblematic form as is common for sports teams. The mascots take the shape of sculptural masks that are worn in impromptu performances in a variety of public settings. Related posters and handbills expand the absurdist gestures of both the bed and mascot projects." Betti-Sue Hertz, Curator SDMA for *Inside the Wave: Six San Diego/Tijuana artists construct social art*.

Dick was born in Las Cruces, New Mexico and raised in Southern California. He received his B.A. from UCLA and, after graduating with an MFA from the University of California, San Diego in 1995 Dick accepted a six week residency at Arteleku in San Sebastian, Spain. Shortly thereafter he was invited to an extended residency through The American Center in Paris where he stayed for two years. He appeared in several group shows including shows at The Center George Pompidou, The Musée d'art moderne and in spaces in Denmark and the Netherlands. Additionally, he had solo shows at Gallerie Chez Valentin, Paris, France and Gandy Gallery, Prague, Czech Republic. He also appeared in two of the first ever web-based shows in France. Since returning to San Diego, he has participated in shows and film festivals in San Diego, Dallas, Houston, Reno, Kyoto, Japan and Berlin. In 2007/2008 Dick had solo shows at Spacecraft Gallery and Luis de Jesus Seminal Projects. Also in 2008 he participated in the group show *Inside the Wave* (with Christen Sperry-Garcia) at the San Diego Museum of Art as well *Childsplay* at The New Children's Museum, San Diego. In 2009, among other things, Dick will be participating in Bushwick: *SITE*, a performance fair in Brooklyn, NY, as well as a guest curator at Sushi Visual Arts Space, San Diego, CA.

**For more information or to RSVP to any of the events, contact: Ann Berchtold, Gallery Director
Tel. 858.254.3031 Email director@lstreetfineart.com | <http://lstreetfineart.com>**

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Detail of Attached Image: Kim MacConnel: "Piggy" 48" x 84" 1992 acrylic, metal, and plastic brach trash on canvas / Brian Dick: "Elvis Presley" Photograph.



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