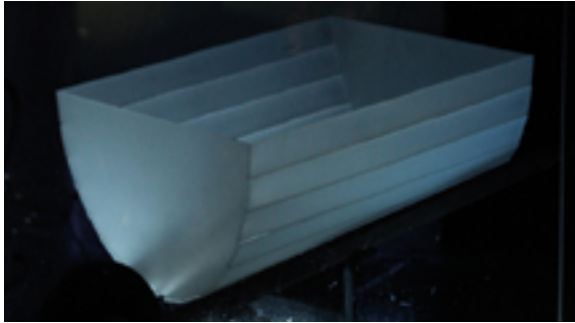


# PATRICIA SWEETOW GALLERY

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Ernest Jolly, *The Labor Party*

**PATRICIA SWEETOW GALLERY** is pleased to present Bay Area artists' **David Huffman**, *Floating World*, paintings; and **Ernest Jolly**, *The Labor Party*, sculpture, drawings and installation. Exhibition dates are January 5 through February 11, 2012. The artists' reception is Thursday, January 5, from 5:30 - 7:30 pm.

PSG is pleased to welcome **Ernest Jolly** in his second solo exhibition, ***The Labor Party***. *The Labor Party* is an exploration of the relationship of the black agricultural worker in the Southern United States before the First World War.

Jolly has crafted a poignant installation that gives life to the plight of the laborer in the South. The installation begins with a horizontal pastel drawing, divided into 3 quadrants, two night skies representing pre-dawn to night, and a yellow panel between referencing the sun. The title of the drawing, "Can't See To Can't See", is the response a field laborer gives to describe the length of their working day, sun-up to sun-down. As you move through the installation you view hand-crafted "speed" punching bags sewn with leather and thread, some bursting at the seams. The bags are standing on a grey concrete floor, with one bag mounted on a strip of mirror, "Staggered" between plexiglass. The punching bags represent the hero of the field laborer, a Black Prize Fighter, whose strength was respected in a world where the laborer was powerless. If only for a brief moment, and with great cathartic justice, The Prize Fighter could break the color barrier, by competing with, and potentially beating the white fighter.

Many laborers desperately tried to escape the horrific conditions of the South, often referred to as "Hell", and escape North, to "Heaven", hoping life would be greatly improved. Ernest has provided a Nkisi, *Nkisi Luna* for their safe journey. Nkisi were spiritual objects made by various peoples of the Congo to invoke supernatural power. The nails driven into the Nkisi awaken the spirit world for the purpose at hand.

Migration and Transformation are central themes of the exhibition. "Carry Me Home", a wheelbarrow crafted from plexiglass and metal, become a spectral tool of labor. The wheelbarrow is transformed into an elegant instrument of spiritual delivery, "passing to the other side", where death becomes a release from the harsh realities of life, and the other side completes the cycle of life. Casting stars on the walls and objects, is a disco ball half covered with yellow flocking. The globe, while being a ubiquitous object at dance halls, also gives voice to the specific dance "Limbo" - dancers move under a pole that is gradually lowered from chest level, and when cleared is considered the triumph of life over death. In Jolly's "Limbo" the transformation of hope, life, and place are revolving in his disco sun, casting an eclipse in a profound struggle for life.

**Ernest Jolly** is a musician, and visual artist who combines his interests in unique ways. His installations bring together sculpture, sound and light using common building materials, such as concrete, wood & wire - his exploration of material and form is inspired by social and ecological issues. The work for this exhibition began at his residency at The Luggage Store in 2010. Recent exhibitions include *Natural Reaction*, San Francisco Art Commission Gallery; *Depth of Surface*, San Francisco State University and *The Alchemist Suite*, Oakland Museum of California, Gallery 555.

Please visit our website at: [www.patriciasweetowgallery.com](http://www.patriciasweetowgallery.com)  
For further information and press materials  
please contact the gallery at 415-788-5126.  
Gallery hours: Tuesday through Saturday 11:00 - 5:30 pm  
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