

PATRICIA SWEETOW GALLERY

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VASTA, *As White as Snow*



DUBBIN + DAVIDSON, *Songs for Psychos*

PATRICIA SWEETOW GALLERY is pleased to introduce Bay Area artist **Jamie Vasta** in her first one-person exhibition, *Mustn't*. In our Project Room, we are presenting *Songs for Psychos*, a 2-channel video installation from New York artists **Melissa Dubbin + Aaron S. Davidson**. PSG will also introduce *Three Small Bronze Sculptures* from the **Estate of Dennis Leon**. Exhibition dates are November 1 through December 15, 2007. Reception for the artists is Thursday, November 1; 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. **Please join us for a conversation and walk-through with Jamie Vasta and Curator/Writer Glen Helfand on Saturday, November 10th, at 2:00 p.m.**

The shimmer of glitter permeates the fablesque story of **Jamie Vasta's** first one-person exhibition, *MUSTN'T*. Vasta, who *received* her MFA from California College of the Arts in 2006, resolutely stuck to her medium of choice, glitter - a medium most remember as their childhood choice of craft material. Glitter has an elemental resonance that carries unexpected emotional charge; however, Vasta elevates the bombastic bits of eye candy to a refined, painterly respect. In *Mustn't*, she transforms the tawdry superficial seduction of glitter to a sanguine drama of heinous proportion.

"The starting point for the series was Angela Carter's feminist reworking of fairy tales - I wanted to capture the sense of magical realism and the gothic in her storytelling. I worked in collaboration with performers Alisia Waller, Steve Bailey, and Erika Salazar to create the scenarios." Vasta sees the women who inhabit the world of *Mustn't* as "magical, delicate, pretty," where usually such depictions result in the female as victim. However, in Vasta's plan the male becomes caught in a seductive trap: "... the women are more than human, with predatory power and strength. The huntsman who watches them and becomes their prey is entranced by beauty, underestimates it, and is caught off-guard by unexpected power." Vasta masterfully uses lush landscape to convert longings into dangerous forbidden purpose. She procures fantasy in captivating works of glitter with stain on wood panel, adding subtle modulation of color and material that result in unexpected detail.

Throughout both her BFA and MFA, Vasta polished her skills using glitter to define, and reveal. Unlike *Día de los Muertos*, where glitter is used to transcend worldliness, Vasta is firmly planted on terra firma. Vasta's work has been written about in *Artforum's* "Critic's Picks"; *The Boston Globe*, *New York Times*, *SF Weekly*, and *The Bay Guardian*.

Melissa Dubbin + Aaron S. Davidson will present *Songs for Psychos* in their first exhibition at PSG. The 2-channel video installation shows several psychologically compelling film segments in which the cinematic character is listening to a song; however, the film's audience is privy only to the portion of the music that serves to define the actor. Dubbin + Davidson's video plays the full musical score, with the cinematic intersect occurring as a random incident, creating a new realization of the music and character. "*Songs for Psychos* highlights the intention of the song in cinema as a deranged muse, restoring the song's original duration and reversing the cutting process. In this scheme, the film is excerpted and placed back within the full song."

Dubbin + Davidson's interest in music as muse acknowledges the history of music in the live performance that accompanied early silent films. Their work looks at music as a manipulative tool, directing viewers' reactions to a scene, character, place, or emotional tenor. In this exhibition, the artists chose sound within the narrative – more specifically, a song the character is listening to – that expresses the psychotic person's predilection, i.e. "intellectual serial killers being inspired by Bach or maniacal visionaries playing Caruso on the Amazon. *Songs for Psychos* focuses on the relationship of music and persona, at the point of convergence where the music the character enjoys in the film says as much about them as their words, costume, or the space they inhabit."

MELISSA DUBBIN + AARON S. DAVIDSON have worked collaboratively since 1998. Their projects are multi-disciplinary and include video, sculpture, sound, performance, and works on paper. They have exhibited internationally at Sadler's Wells, London; 2004 Gwangju Biennale, South Korea; e-flux Video Rental; Espace Paul Ricard, Paris; and the New York/Québec Interlacé Festival. They have exhibited in the United States at museums, galleries, and art centers including SculptureCenter, Gigantic ArtSpace, New Museum of Contemporary Art, and Museum of Arts & Design in New York; New Sound New York Festival, The Kitchen; Bronx Museum of the Arts, New York; Smack Mellon, Brooklyn, New York; and Center for Contemporary Arts, Santa Fe, New Mexico. Additionally, they have collaborated on projects with Pierre Huyghe, Morton Subotnick, LOT-EK, Woody & Steina Vasulka, and others, and as transmission artists with free103point9. PATRICIA SWEETOW GALLERY is honored to represent the estate of DENNIS LEON, 1933 - 1998

DENNIS LEON, born in London, England, was Professor and Chair of the Sculpture Department at the California College of Arts and Crafts from 1972 to 1988. He retired Professor Emeritus in 1992, and in the following year received a Distinguished Faculty Award and Honorary Doctorate.

His drawings and sculpture are included in the permanent collections of the Philadelphia Museum of Art; Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco; and the Storm King Art Center, New York, among others. Honors include a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Beginning in the late 1950's Leon exhibited frequently in museums and galleries, including numerous one-person exhibitions at the Kraushaar Gallery in New York, as well as the Fuller Goldeen Gallery, Cheryl Haines Gallery, and Paule Anglim Gallery in San Francisco.

Leon's work reflects our rich natural environment in sculpture of wood and bronze, as well as large-scale drawings.

On view in the first exhibition at Patricia Sweetow Gallery are small unique bronze sculptures. A one-person exhibition with a catalog will follow in the months to come.

For further information and press materials please contact the gallery at 415-788-5126.

Gallery hours: Tuesday through Saturday 10:30 - 5:30 pm.

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