

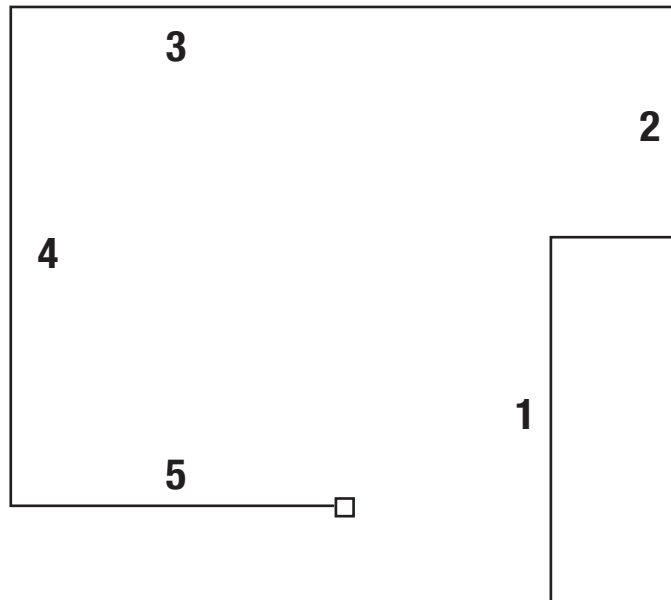
CHRISTI BIRCHFIELD

It's all Yours: Posture Pointers to Make You Prettier
(Parma Heights, OH)

February 3 – March 30, 2012



OBJECT CHECKLIST



- 1. Images from Eva Hesse Archives**
ink jet prints
- 2. Marlene Dietrich, “Where Have All the Flowers Gone?”**
video from YouTube
- 3. Revolution 8:29, 2012**
video
- 4. Plant Stand (tryptich), 2012**
ink jet print
- 5. Residual Output in Four Colors, 2012**
flowers, spray paint, tropical plants, paper, plaster, papier-mâché, string, and tarp.

WHERE HAVE ALL THE FLOWERS GONE?

Using iconography surrounding the late sculptor Eva Hesse and actress Marlene Dietrich as catalysts, Birchfield’s installation meditates on the relationship between ephemerality and the making of art objects.

Hesse died of a brain tumor at the age of 34. It is believed that the resins she used to make her sculptures caused the tumor. The artwork that made Hesse so revered is also what contributed to her demise. She carries with her what Birchfield calls an “eternal vortex” that shapes her legacy as a revered sculptor. Birchfield’s project employs objects that pay respects to both womens’ legacies, using them as malleable materials in their own right.

Marlene Dietrich was known for her early films and stage work, and her later career as a cabaret artist. It is from this latter period that her famous rendition of Pete Seeger’s “Where Have

All the Flowers Gone?” performed for her 1972 television special “An Evening With Marlene” was taken. Video of this performance appears in the East wall of Birchfield’s installation. In Dietrich’s hands, this protest song also takes on a mawkish nostalgia for “the way things were,” hearkening to when Dietrich was younger and not relying on non-surgical facelifts to retain her “beauty.”

Birchfield lays out her colorful works alongside Hesse and Dietrich. This work includes live plants and pressed flowers splashed with vibrant colors. The colors serve as a reminder of life and a cosmetic enhancement.

Both Hesse’s and Dietrich’s presence in the space with Birchfield’s plastic arts creates an intriguing dialog about the fleeting nature of life, notoriety and beauty and the preservation of these aspects.

ARTIST BIO

Cleveland native Christi Birchfield received a degree in printmaking from the Cleveland Institute of Art in 2006, and an MFA in visual art from Columbia University in 2010. She continued her studies at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in the summer of 2010. Birchfield's work is included in the permanent print and drawing collection of the Cleveland Museum of Art and the Cleveland Clinic Contemporary Art Collection. Her most recent exhibitions include a two-person exhibition at Parse Gallery in New Orleans, and *New Printmakers Make Their Mark* at the Hunterdon Art Museum in Clinton, New Jersey. For more information, visit: <http://www.christibirchfield.com>.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Jerry Birchfield, PJ Doran, The Eva Hesse Archives at the Allen Memorial Art Museum, Aaron Koehn, Marilyn Ladd-Simmons, Christopher Lynn, Jeff Mancinetti, Kate Sopko, Megan Wilson, Josh Werling, and Adam Zimmerman.



The SPACES World Artists Program (SWAP) offers residencies to international, national and local artists who explore and experiment. SWAP supports artists in the creation, presentation and discussion of new work, while facilitating opportunities for them to collaborate with artists and audiences in Northeast Ohio. Christi Birchfield is the 36th artist-in-residence as part of SWAP.

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RELATED EVENTS

Christi Birchfield has a concurrent exhibition at the William Busta Gallery:

Opening Reception: February 10, 5 – 9pm

I'll be your Mirror

February 10 – March 18, 2012

2731 Prospect Ave.

www.williambustagallery.com

February 16, 6:30 p.m.: Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts: Artist Contracts

March 1, 6:30 p.m.: Mashed Thoughtatoes: presentations on 3 disparate topics. Christi Birchfield will be one of the presenters

Large print available at the front desk.  **SPACES** © 2012