

Artist Bios



o'born contemporary

ROBERT CANALI is an artist living and working in Caledon, Ontario. Canali explores the way in which photography and its relationship to presence can be experienced through installation. His photographs and installation work have been exhibited frequently at venues including: The Gales Gallery at York University; Labspace Studio; Deleon White Gallery; and Gallery TPW. In addition to having work in numerous private collections in Canada and the US, Canali self-published a handmade limited edition artist book and exhibition catalogue under his co-run publishing house, Wassenaar Studio. He has been the recipient of a Regional Arts Award from the Brampton council of Fine Arts as well as the Photography Honorarium Award from York University, and his work has most recently been featured on the cover of the summer 2010 issue of BlackFlash Magazine.

LIAM CROCKARD was born in Kitchener, Ontario 1986, and now situates his practice in Toronto, where he received his BFA at the Ontario College of Art and Design. Over the last two years, Crockard has exhibited internationally in Chicago, Los Angeles and Berlin, as well as organized and participated in a number of successful local shows. Citing the countless examples of jury-rigged constructions and "making-do" he witnessed growing up in his hometown as a main driving force behind his sculptural practice, Crockard uses materially driven gestures to explore the collision of industry-driven-hometown nostalgia and modern art fetishism. Wandering the old neighborhood and flipping through an art textbook have become increasingly similar experiences. Ultimately this conflation of the personal and the referential sits at the core of his practice, be it articulated through collage, video or sculpture.

ALEX FISCHER (b.1986, Walkerton, ON) is an artist and empiricist living and working in Toronto, Canada. A sociologist of internet culture, Fischer mediates the visual and theoretical philosophies, which can be accessed through contemporary technology. This extraction and the resulting dissemination are essential to his approach to art-making, which is at once reactionary and projective. He composes his figures and landscapes by digitally assembling visual and conceptual sources in order to explore the syncretic effect of the digital-age. Fischer's work has been featured in Backflash, Beautiful Decay and Rojo. He is the creator, editor and juror of Sync Resist, released in 2009 through York University. In 2010, Fischer produced his first artist book, *Smarter Today* published by O'Born Contemporary and Wassenaar. Fischer graduated from York University with a BFA, honours in visual arts. His work is featured in noted private and corporate collections. Fischer is represented by O'Born Contemporary and is currently working on his second solo exhibition, set to open in February 2012.

RAFAEL GOLDCHAIN's photographs have been exhibited across Canada, Mexico, Chile, the United States, Cuba, Germany, France, Italy, and the Czech Republic. His work is in private and public collections including France's Biblioteque Nationale, the Canadian Museum for Contemporary Photography, New York's Museum of Modern Art, Houston's Museum of Fine Arts, the Portland Art Museum, and San Diego's Museum of Photographic Arts.. A second-generation Latin American Jewish artist, Goldchain was born in Santiago de Chile, lived in Jerusalem in the early 1970s, and moved to Canada in the late 1970s. Goldchain received a Master of Fine Arts from York University and a Bachelor of Applied Arts from Ryerson Polytechnic Institute, both in Toronto. Goldchain received the 1989 Duke and Duchess of York Prize in Photography from The Canada Council for the Arts, and accompanied Canada's Governor General Adrienne Clarkson on official visits to Chile and Argentina in 2001. He is currently Professor and Program Coordinator of the Applied Photography Program at Sheridan Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning in Oakville, Ontario, Canada.

Since the age of 10, **JILL GREENBERG** has staged photographs and created characters using the mediums of drawing, painting, sculpture, film and photography. She is known worldwide for her uniquely human animal portraits, which intentionally anthropomorphize her subjects, as well as her infamous series, "End Times" which struck a nerve in its exploration of religious, political, and environmental themes exploiting the raw emotion of toddlers in distress. Her newest work marks a return to the postmodern feminist theory that inspired her senior thesis, "The Female Object" as an art student at RISD in the 80's: "The disciplinary project of femininity" and the predetermined failure of all women who attempt to "succeed" at it. As a working photographer she travails to straddle the line between assignment work and her own personal work. On one notable occasion, a conflict arose when she was assigned to photograph the Republican candidate for presidency in the summer 2008, at the height of his popularity; after delivering the assignment exactly as requested, she chose to speak out in the form of agit-prop outtakes on her own website, which she was legally allowed and morally compelled to do. The violent backlash from her political art has informed this return to the question of what is tolerated by women in our culture.

ABBY MCGUANE is an emerging artist and recent graduate of OCAD's Sculpture and Installation program. Her practice negotiates a preoccupation with tactility and materiality with issues of identity and authenticity, manifested through forms that are often as bleakly humorous as they are moodily expressive. McGuane lives and works in Toronto.

KATE MCQUILLEN is a Chicago-based artist working mainly in print and installation. McQuillen has received numerous residencies, in the U.S. and abroad, including: Elsewhere Collaborative (North Carolina); Ragdale Foundation (Illinois); Lillsteet Art Center (Illinois); Ox-Bow School of Art (Michigan); Open Studio Printmaking Center (Toronto); Frans Masereel Center (Belgium); and the Columbia College Center for Books & Paper Arts (Chicago). She has exhibited in Montreal, Toronto, Boston, and Chicago. McQuillen's work explores iconic American technologies with roots in military research, and how they relate to American culture and identity.

JOHN MONTEITH was born in 1973 in Newmarket, Ontario, Canada and graduated in 2008 from the MFA program at Parsons the New School for Design. Monteith's work has been represented in a number of solo and group exhibitions including K-48 "Kontinuum," No Soul For Sale at both the Tate Modern, London and X Initiative, New York, The Toronto Alternative Art Fair International, and "Zwischen" at Galerie Stefan Roepke, Cologne.

Additional projects include "Living Room" commissioned by Flux Factory in collaboration with openhousenewyork, and "River's Edge", a site-specific installation for the DUMBO Art under The Bridge Festival. His most recent solo exhibition, *Lost Highway*, was exhibited at O'Born Contemporary in December 2010.

Monteith's work is featured in a number of international collections including the New School in New York. His publications include Charley, www.artinamericamagazine.com, K-48, The New Yorker, British Good Housekeeping, Toronto Life, and Style; winning the Kenneth R. Wilson Silver Medal for Best Art Direction of an opening Spread, Canadian Business Press.

Monteith has been awarded grants from The Canada Council for the Arts and the Toronto Arts Council. He lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

DOMINIC NAHR works with a strong and unwavering gaze, aiming to document and disseminate images of actions that must not be continued or forgotten. He is intent on reporting certain and unflinching narratives about natural catastrophes, civil unrest and crimes inflicted in the pursuit of protecting physical and psychological borders.

Nahr was raised in Hong Kong where he established himself as a photojournalist with South China Morning Post. He relocated to Toronto and subsequently graduated from Ryerson University in 2008.

Nahr has been honored with several prestigious awards, including The Oskar Barnack Newcomer Award. He has been selected as one of the 'Top 30 under 30 photographers' by PDN magazine and has been exhibited at Visa Pour l'Image in Perpignan, France. Nahr was selected to take part in 2010's Joop Swart Masterclass in Holland and received grants from the Pulitzer Center and the Emergency Fund.

Dominic Nahr joined Magnum Photos as a nominee in July 2010. He is a contract photographer for Time magazine and represented by O'Born Contemporary in Toronto. Nahr currently resides in Nairobi, Kenya.

ED OU is a culturally ambiguous Canadian photojournalist who has been bouncing around the Middle East, Africa, and the former Soviet Union. He is loosely based in Nairobi.

Ou started his career early as a teenager covering the 2006 war between Israel and Hezbollah in southern Lebanon and the fall of the Islamic Courts in Mogadishu, Somalia while he was studying in the Middle East. He worked for Reuters and the Associated press, covering a wide range of news stories in the area. After university, he moved to Kazakhstan, where he documented the tragic consequences of Soviet nuclear weapons testing in Semipalatinsk. Recently, an investigative report he photographed about child soldiers fighting for the Somali Transitional Government made the front page of the New York Times. The next day, these photos served as evidence in front of a US congressional hearing that the American government was violating international law by supporting a government that uses child soldiers.

Ou's work has been recognized by Pictures of the Year International, the Overseas Press Club, Ian Parry Editorial Grant, PDN 30 Under 30, as well as the World Press Photo Joop Swart Masterclass. He speaks English, Arabic, Mandarin, and gets by in Hebrew and French.

He is represented by Reportage by Getty Images and O'Born Contemporary.

MARK PECKMEZIAN is a Toronto-based artist and commercial photographer.

Working within portraiture and documentary photography, Peckmezian attempts to leverage the analog-digital divide, producing work that draws into relief the enduring value of analog processes in our new digital-dominated photographic landscape. He recently completed his BFA in Photography from Ryerson University in Toronto, and is represented for commercial and editorial work by Stash. His photographs have been published in Prefix Photo, on the cover of Report on Business and Function, and have been selected for inclusion in Flash Forward, touring internationally.

PUBLIC STUDIO:

ELLE FLANDERS is a filmmaker and artist based in Toronto. She was raised in Montreal and Jerusalem and holds both an MA in Critical Theory and an MFA from Rutgers University. Her work has been screened and exhibited at the Berlin International Film Festival, the MOMA and festivals and museums worldwide. Her most recent work includes: *What Isn't There*, an ongoing photo installation project that documents Palestinian Villages that no longer exist; *Road Movie*, an in-progress 12-screen installation on the Apartheid roads in Palestine; *Bird on a Wire: A Five City Symphony*, a dual screen projection and live music performance; and the award-winning feature documentary *Zero Degrees of Separation*. Flanders is a PhD candidate at York University where she also teaches.

TAMIRA SAWATZKY is an architect and artist working in Toronto. She was raised in Winnipeg and holds a BA in English from the University of Winnipeg and an M.Arch from the University of Manitoba. She has been working for the award-winning firm MacLennan Jaunkalns Miller Architects since 1998, designing community centres and libraries. Most recently, she has been collaborating with Elle Flanders on *What Isn't There*, a photo installation project about Palestinian villages that cease to exist with the establishment of the State of Israel; *Road Movie*, an in-progress 12-screen installation on the Apartheid Roads of Palestine; and *Road Shots*, a series of still photographs with etched screens.

NOEL RODO- VANKEULEN is an artist and writer who lives and works in Brampton, Ontario. He has exhibited work in Canada, the United States and abroad. Selected exhibitions include: "After Color" at Bose Pacia in Chelsea, New York, which traveled during 2010 and 2011 to galleries at Savannah College of Art & Design; "Where is Here", part of the 2010 Flash Forward Festival; "Graphic Intersections" at the Umbrage Gallery in New York; "One Hour Photo" at The American University Museum at the Katzen Arts Center in Washington, DC; and "Young Curators, New Ideas" at the Bond Street Gallery in New York.

Rodo-Vankeulen's critical and editorial writing has been included in such publications as the Toronto-based Hunter and Cook Magazine, Foam International Photography Magazine, The Los Angeles County Museum of Art's book Words Without Pictures and most recently in Lay Flat: Meta, an annual journal of photography. In 2011 his work will be included in the book 100 New Artists by Dazed and Confused editor Francesca Gavin and published by Laurence King. Along with artist Robert Canali, Rodo- Vankeulen co-founded Wassenaar, a concept studio that focuses on print design, publishing and curatorial projects.

CAITLIN RUETER was born in Toronto, Canada. She received her BA from McGill University and studied at Ontario College of Art & Design before moving to the United States in 2002. There, she received a BFA from Lyme Academy College of Fine Art and, in 2009, her MFA from Parsons the New School for Design.

"Each project begins as an exercise in learning a new history. Coming to the United States as an adult, I am free to learn its history less conventionally than the way I learned Canadian history as a schoolgirl. Chasing the anecdotal and sometimes the apocryphal, I am as much interested in the way that I gather the information as I am in the information gathered."

Caitlin Rueter's work is exhibited internationally. She lives and works in New York City.