



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

contact: [info@dcartscenter.org](mailto:info@dcartscenter.org)

gallery hours: wed-sun 2-7pm



## *Gift* Exchange

May 8 - June 7

Opening Reception: May 8, 7-9pm

Gallery Talk: June 7, 3pm

Curated by Laura Roulet  
Apprentice Curator: Landria Shack

Cynthia Connolly  
Edgar Endress  
Helen Frederick  
Inga Frick  
Muriel Hasbun  
Dennis O'Neil

Thomas Campbell  
Joseph Casseus  
Julia Kjelgaard  
Gillian Brown  
Jennifer O'Neill  
S. Dukachev

Inspired by Lewis Hyde's classic 1979 book *The Gift*, *Gift Exchange* presents the work of six accomplished Washington D.C. artists paired with six works by associated artists received in exchange. Relationships between artists such as teacher-student, mentor-acyolyte, and collaborators are conveyed in the stories of these exchanges. The notion of art as a gift rather than a commodity, but also a gift as talent, as inspiration, and as catalyst for change, underlies the exhibit.

**about the Curatorial Initiative**

*Gift Exchange* is the first of two exhibitions that will be held at DC Arts Center as part of the 2009 Curatorial Initiative. Through the Curatorial Initiative, DC Arts Center pairs an experienced curator with someone who has a strong interest in curating. The apprentice curator assists the experienced curator with an exhibition, before taking charge of the planning for a second exhibition later in the year. The program provides an opportunity for an emerging curator to gain experience with the process of planning and mounting an exhibition and reflects DCAC's commitment to curatorial practice as an integral part of the organization's mission of supporting emerging artists. By nurturing new curators, DCAC hopes to bring fresh blood into our own programming, while assisting a new generation of curators who will take the knowledge they learn through the Initiative out into the arts community and beyond. DC Arts Center is honored to welcome Curatorial Mentor Laura Roulet and Curatorial Apprentice Landria Shack for the 2009 Curatorial Initiative.

The District of Columbia Arts Center is a nonprofit arts space dedicated to promoting the freshest, most under-recognized artists in the Washington metropolitan area. Comprised of a 750 square foot gallery and a 50 seat black box theater, DCAC has been in the heart of Adams Morgan since its founding in 1989. Its dynamic and eclectic visual arts exhibitions and performance events has received local, national and international reviews. We encourage an ongoing dialogue between new artists and the greater arts community and assist artists in both the business and craft of art. Poets, painters, actors, storytellers, sculptors, and performance artists from around the corner and around the world are drawn to DCAC and it remains a mainstay of the Washington, DC arts community.

DC Arts Center  
2438 18th Street NW  
Washington, DC 2009  
[www.dcartscenter.org](http://www.dcartscenter.org)  
[info@dcartscenter.org](mailto:info@dcartscenter.org)  
[202 462 7833](tel:2024627833)