



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Opening reception Friday January 13 from 7 -9 pm:**

## **World's first Art Decathlon to be at DC Arts Center**

**Four artists compete in 10 categories to claim the title of best artist**

If the best all-around athlete is one who most efficiently balances speed, strength, technique, and endurance, then what defines the best all-around artist?

This good-natured competition sparks the debate around the issue of what it means to be the best all-around artist, challenges individuals to try their hand at new disciplines, and gives exposure to artists who embrace working in various media.

In the spring of 2011 DCAC posted an open call for individual artists in the DC metropolitan area to submit proposals that explore the significance of what "unspecialized" means to being a working artist today. Artists were told they had to "compete" in ten artistic areas: Textiles/fiber art, Painting, Drawing, Video, Printmaking, Photography, Collage, Sound, Conceptual Art, and Sculpture.

Applicants from diverse backgrounds were narrowed by DCAC's Visual Arts Committee to four semi-finalists: Shanthi Chandrasekar, Lee Gainer, Lisa Rosenstein, and Mary Woodall. During the six-month run-up to the exhibition, designated commentators Buck Downs, Patrick McDonough, Karen Joan Topping, Hays Holladay and Ryan Holladay, covered the progress of the decathletes on a blog as the artists created work for the show, with each commentator being assigned an artist to visit once a month. Shanthi Chandrasekar likened her experience to "learning to drive on the expressway" and Lisa Rosenstein states "this competition has changed the way I look at my whole working process."

The opening reception for The DCAC Art Decathlon will take place on Friday January 13, from 7:00 – 9:00 and culminate in an artist's talk and awards ceremony on Sunday, February 5 at 5:00. The work of all the semi-finalists will be on view at DCAC from January 13 to February 5, during which time it will be viewed and judged by an eight-person panel including George Hemphill, Andrea Pollan and Vivian Lassman. Two discussion panels will be held during the exhibition, one focused on the relationship of athletic competition and a second on art and the creative process for the four finalists. Dates to be determined. Follow the decathletes and their progress at [dcacdecathlon.wordpress.com](http://dcacdecathlon.wordpress.com)

All events are free and open to the public. DC Arts Center is located in the heart of Adams Morgan at 2438 18th St. NW. For more information call 202-462-7833 or visit our website at [www.dcartscenter.org](http://www.dcartscenter.org).



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.

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