



Macho - The Mask of Masculinity

DCAC's Curatorial Initiative

Curated by Rebecca Cross

Apprentice Curator: Sarah Burford

April 28 - May 28

Opening Reception: Friday, April 28, 7-9 pm

Artist Talk and Closing Reception: Sunday, May 21, 5 pm

IMAGE: Michael Corigliano, *Stumbling Forward*, 2015, Photographs, 84" x 96"

Damon Arhos, Michael Corigliano, Hector Emanuel, Timothy Johnson, Mark Newport, Joseph Daniel Robert OLeary, Kate Warren, and Dawn Whitmore

Definition from the Oxford English Dictionary:

macho

/ˈmäCHō/

noun

1. *a man who is aggressively proud of his masculinity.*

"Macho" takes as its point of departure recent debates about the role of men in contemporary society. As we began exploring ideas for this exhibition, we continuously came across examples of work showcasing people who were "projecting" an air of strength and masculinity rather than openly revealing their authentic male selves. These remarkable artists all react, in their own ways, to the promulgated notion that "masculinity" itself is not a trait that simply exists, but rather one that needs to be worn like a mask. Masks of real and imaginary uniforms, physical poses and symbolic props, aid the figures in projecting this shroud of self-aggrandizement. The concept reaches far beyond the limits of a single exhibition, but we present this provocative group of artists making engaging, surprising and challenging art around this subject as a means of furthering the existing dialogue, exposing both the disturbing and comical evocations of our title to engage with the conflicting realities of post-modern manhood.

