



For Immediate Release

External Memory

Curated by Chandi Kelley

Exhibition Opening Reception:

Friday, June 7, 2013 from 7 to 9 pm

Contact: info@dcartscenter.org
202-462-7833 cell: 202-379-5601
www.dcartscenter.org

New Exhibition *External Memory* features work by the latest members of *Sparkplug, DCAC's Artists Collective*.

New **Sparkplug** members are: Amy Hughes Braden, Lee Gainer, Piper Grosswendt, Michelle Lisa Herman, Rebecca Kallem, Corwin Levi, Rachel Schmidt, and Stephanie Williams.

Through diverse methods and materials, these artists are processing, filtering, and ultimately applying new meaning to the vast amount of information feeding our culture. Effectively embracing a collective stream of consciousness, these works draw on the many sources of input that color our perception of the world around us.

Modern technology is filled with content that spreads and tools that are designed to transcend our human limitations. The notion of forgetting is replaced by greater storage capacity, and external memories become extensions of our internal thought processes. The internet provides a democratization of information, allowing the past, the present, and the future to coexist. Our personal histories and collective experiences overlap, adding complexity and subduing information simultaneously.

The works in this exhibition manifest an outgrowth of the human mind and an increased consciousness of our world as experienced through various forms of media. These artists are responding to our digital age with a tangible potency, focusing on material and finding a place in the world through physical objects. Piper Grosswendt, Amy Braden, and Stephanie Williams use repurposed materials to create their works, transforming original functions and taking objects known and familiar to create works that are alien and mysterious. Radio Sebastian, Becca Kallem, and Lee Gainer work with text and imagery that is accessible in the public domain to convolute and alter information, encouraging new associations. Rachel Schmidt and Michelle Lisa Herman layer their materials to create new realities, prodding at the unknown. Each artist is dealing with this input and its sources in very different ways, but always engaging our senses via materiality.

Sparkplug, DCAC's Artists Collective is a two-year program in which artists from wide range of backgrounds and experiences are given an environment in which to foster their development as a group. Thorough studio visits, peer critique and informal informational sessions these artists exchange ideas, techniques and styles. DCAC features an exhibition of the entire Sparkplug group every year.

External Memory is an exhibition of artist participants in DCAC's Sparkplug program which will be open from Friday, June 7 to Sunday, July 14, 2013. Opening reception on Friday, June 7 from 7 to 9 pm. Artists talk on Sunday, July 14 at 5:00 pm. Gallery hours are Wednesdays through Sundays from 2 to 7 pm. All events are free and open to the public and are at DC Arts Center (DCAC), 2438 18th Street NW, Washington DC. For more information call 202-462-7833, email info@dcartscenter.org, or visit www.dcartscenter.org.

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