

parlour

Wild Flowers
September 26 - 27, 2009

Wild Flowers, Parlour No. 8, is an exhibition set on a rooftop terrace overlooking the Lower East Side. The exhibition brings together a group of talented young artists, whose diverse practices have created a broad range of sculptural works that vary in material, color, shape, scale and construction, resulting in a wild flower sculpture garden. Though unique in their starting point, each piece naturally unites with the rest to form a cohesive tapestry. They are organic entities that invade and overcome the space, highlighting the beauty of quotidian forms, growing and sprawling before our eyes, evolving into new forms while feeding upon the existing ones. Participating artists include Corey D'Augustine, Langdon Graves, Nathan Gwynne, Todd Knopke, Ryan O'Connor, Don Porcella, Trish Tillman and Jeanine Woollard. *Wild Flowers* is hosted by Alex Baxter in his NoHo apartment.

Corey D'Augustine's *Light Pile* creeps up out of negative space, highlighted by its own illumination. D'Augustine allows the mountain of purple fluorescent light fixtures to define their own appearance and structure through integration with the natural setting, the piece's presence growing more and more conspicuous as the evening progresses and the natural light diminishes. **Langdon Graves**, creates an unpredictable, viral piece entitled *Feel Better* that invades a section of the garden, weaving inside and out of plant pots and the mossy soil. Reacting directly to the space itself, Graves' creations, which are made from vinyl, plastic, rubber and steel, have a symbiotic relationship with existing structures in the garden, much like a fungus to its host. In *Hi Life*, **Nathan Gwynne** uses improvisational construction and hybridization to create a new form that disrupts hierarchical assumptions about the world of objects. The piece, which is part mannequin, part lamp, part plant pot, and part shoddy construction, is therefore a threshold to where fine art and real life are not estranged, but rather synonymous. **Todd Knopke's** *Whispering Winds* are the artist's version of wind chimes, which hover silently above the viewers' heads—silently because they are created out of fabric. Much more interested in the form than function of these garden ornaments, Knopke elongates the dangling chimes, giving them the appearance of vines that come to life in the wind or a viewer's unsuspecting head below. *Standing Riot* by **Ryan O'Connor**, an explosion of batons, fluorescent lights and wood, combines utility and fantasy in order to create an aggressive intensity. Through the positioning of his piece, *Standing Riot* appears to combat the vertical urban landscape, puncturing and intersecting the downtown skyline with its oblique protrusions. With *Nature Boy, the Naked Beekeeper with Split Personality*, **Don Porcella** comically explores the relationship between nature and mankind. Porcella's sculpture depicts Nature Boy offering his body as a conduit of resurrection for the diminishing bee population. **Trish Tillman's** *Gift and Guilt* is inspired by the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, which was a gift from King Nebuchadnezzar to his wife and subjects. Tillman's modern, more quotidian version of this concept gives the city dweller the gift of the voyeuristic glimpse. Her sculpture, which includes a centrally-positioned image of a woman opening a window with her cleavage exposed and discarded domestic objects sprinkled all around, projects an unplanned and anonymous moment for the viewer, where they are both the out and insider. Through a melange of materials and literary and mythical references, the artistic practice of **Jeanine Woollard**, attempts to present a menagerie of exotic narratives and reach an epic monumentalism, whether it be attainable or not. Her work for the show, *Liberty Leading the*

People, is a dramatic assemblage of industrial and everyday materials inspired by Delacroix's painting of the same title that was made to commemorate the French Revolution. While each artistic vision is unique and involves its own set of concerns and materials, one cannot help but see the similarities where there should exist only difference, harmony where there should be only discord. *Wild Flowers* is, therefore, a celebration of these unintentional convergences that exist all around us.

Corey D'Augustine received his BA in Biochemistry and Visual Art from Oberlin College and completed an MA and PhD coursework in art history at the Institute of Fine Arts in New York. Selected exhibitions include *Dogma Paintings*, Ferenbalm-Gurbrü Station, Karlsruhe (2009), *Blank 08*, Median Art Center, Beijing (2008), and *Silicone Valley*, P.S.1 Center for Contemporary Art (2007). **Langdon Graves** is a graduate from the Parsons MFA program and will have a solo show at Colette Blanchard Gallery in January 2010. **Nathan Gwynne** will receive his MFA from Hunter College this December. In addition to showing work around the globe, he is also a drummer in several active bands: The Ice Machine and Swift, The Love Loves, Terrible Eagle and Precinct. **Todd Knopke** received his MFA from Yale University and has had solo exhibitions with Derek Eller Gallery and I-20. **Ryan O'Connor** is a graduate of the Goldsmiths College MFA program in London and in January 2010 will have a solo show at Work Gallery. **Don Porcella** is in numerous public and private collections worldwide and enjoys a robust upcoming exhibition schedule that includes several museum group shows and solo shows in New York City, Berlin and Switzerland. **Trish Tillman** received her MFA from SVA in 2009 and is a recipient of the Joan Mitchell Foundation 2009 MFA grant. Her work has been seen in exhibitions in New York, Miami, Marfa, Washington D.C. and Anchorage. **Jeanine Woollard** is a London-based artist who also graduated from the Goldsmiths MFA program. She is represented by Analix Forever Galerie in Geneva, Switzerland.

Wild Flowers opens Saturday, September 26th from 6 - 9 PM, and can be viewed on Sunday, September 27th from 12 - 6 PM by appointment only. For more information or to make an appointment, please contact Leslie or Ciara at parlourinfo@gmail.com or visit www.parlourdoor.com.

Parlour is a nomadic exhibition space that presents weekend-long exhibitions in different homes throughout New York City. Its impetus is to showcase the work of contemporary artists in the unique and dynamic setting of actual living spaces. Parlour was conceived by Ciara Gilmartin and Leslie Rosa-Stumpf. Both are graduates of Sarah Lawrence College. Leslie additionally received her MA in Curatorial Studies from Goldsmiths College.

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