

PRESS RELEASE

GALERIE ART CRU BERLIN · ORANIENBURGER STRASSE 27 · 10117 BERLIN-MITTE



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CREATIVE GROWTH

Vernissage: Thursday, April 04, 2013, 7 pm
Exhibition: April 05, 2013 – June 01, 2013
Galerie ART CRU Berlin, Oranienburger Str. 27, 10117 Berlin, Germany
Introduction: Dr. Hansdieter Erbsmehl
Art historian
Music: Riders Connection
Beat box, mouth trumpet, bass & guitar

Galerie ART CRU Berlin and **Creative Growth** (Oakland, USA and Paris, FR) are presenting works by **Dwight Mackintosh, Dan Miller, Donald Mitchell, George Wilson, Luis Aguilera, Merritt Wallace** and **Aurie Ramirez**.

This international cooperation is the first own exhibition by *Creative Growth* (non-profit visual arts center for people with disabilities) in Germany. In this country the organisation has recently been known for its successful participation in the group show *World Transformers – The Art of the Outsiders* held at the *Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt*. The works by Mackintosh and Mitchell have been exhibited internationally, recently at *ABCD Collection*, Paris and *Gavin Brown's enterprise*, New York. Both are present in the following collections: *Collection de l'Art Brut* in Lausanne and *The Museum of Everything* in London.

Dwight Mackintosh (1906-1999, *Hayward, USA) began making artwork late in life and after spending over fifty-five years in institutions. He has been identified by the well-known art historian John McGregor as a great American Outsider Artist. During his career at Creative Growth he generated multitudes of drawings, paintings, prints and ceramics. Dwight's work is characterized by repetitive flowing text and "x-ray" views of loosely drawn, yet tightly composed male figures; his work also includes trains, buses, angels, and an idiosyncratic documentation illustrating 'before and after' views of tonsillectomy surgery.

Dan Miller's (*1961, Castor Valley, USA) artwork reflects his persona and perception. Letters, words, and images are repeatedly overdrawn, often creating ink layered masses, hovering on the page and built up to the point of obliteration or destruction of the ground. Each work contains the written recording of the artist's obsession with objects like light bulbs, electrical sockets, food and the names of cities and people.

Donald Mitchell (*1961, San Francisco, USA) covered the pages of his early work with obsessively crosshatched fields of lines that hid any trace of an underlying image. Eventually, Donald started to reveal the faces and forms that he had buried on the page. Donald's prolific work is filled with figures in motion and repose, and his trademark has become a tightly composed, graphically sophisticated page of crowded figures. He explores this theme over and over again in different media, seducing his audience and causing them to wonder about these silent, anonymous crowds.

George Wilson (*1946) is a man of few words, usually offering a whispered comment as he moves quickly through the studio. His eyes and hands are always in motion as he works and his drawings gracefully communicate this vibrant, frenetic energy. For over twenty-four years George has concentrated on making colorful, large-scale drawings of dogs, horses, and people captured alone, or gathered in rows and crowds.

Trägerverein:
PS-Art e.V. Berlin
Oranienburger Straße 27
10117 Berlin-Mitte

Vorstand:
Alexandra von Gersdorff-Bultmann
Silvana Künze
Birgit Angermann

Spendenkonto:
Bank für Sozialwirtschaft
Kontonummer: 108 260 0
BLZ: 100 205 00

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Aurie Ramirez (*1962, Philippines) sophisticated, delicately rendered watercolor and ink compositions create an ever-expanding fantasy world where fragments of 18th century dandyism, neo-Victorian decorum, psychedelia, Venetian masquerade, Glam Rock sex and Punk fetishism are repeated and transformed. Aurie's work has been inspired by her interest in the Adams Family, and the rock band Kiss. Most recently Aurie has exhibited her work in shows at White Columns and Gavin Brown's enterprise, New York, Jack Hanley Gallery, Los Angeles, ABCD in Paris, and Collection l'Art Brut, Lausanne.

Luis Aguilera (* 1973, San Salvador, El Salvador) makes intensely personal drawings inspired by photos of runway models. The abstract, angular line Luis uses to interpret the magazine model soon takes on the shape and narrative of the people from Luis' own life. Each work becomes layered by the use of colored line and gestural movements, making Aguilera's work instantly recognizable and simultaneously a mystery. In 2011, Rena Bransten Gallery in San Francisco, CA held Aguilera's first solo show.

Merritt Wallace (*1963, Japan) brings his idiosyncratic, interior world into clear focus within his drawings. Black and white lines become a large matrix, appearing as city streets and waterways filled with numbers and arrows, manhole covers and cat faces. Many times Merritt's drawings are also game boards, filled with repetition and detail. Creating this work is a soothing outlet for the artist.

Galerie ART CRU Berlin is Berlin's only gallery for so-called Outsider Art since 2008. The term (introduced in 1945 by painter Jean Dubuffet as "Art Brut") refers to art by people with psychiatric diseases or mental disabilities. The gallery's main focus is to reduce the distance between established art and Outsider Art. Furthermore it aims at interconnecting the artists and their scenes. Being located at the Kunsthof in Oranienburger Straße, the gallery doesn't just present works by people with disabilities right in the centre of the art scene, it also increases their public visibility. Galerie ART CRU Berlin is carried by the non-profit federation PS-Art e.V. Berlin (network of different institutions) lead by Alexandra Gersdorff-Bultmann and her son Nikolaj Bultmann.

Creative Growth is a non-profit visual arts center, located in Oakland, California, that serves adult artists with developmental, mental and physical disabilities, providing a professional studio environment for artistic development, gallery exhibition and representation. Creative Growth is led by director of over 10 years, Tom diMaria. *Creative Growth* does international collaboration with institutions worldwide and has a space in Paris under the direction of Gaëla Fernández.

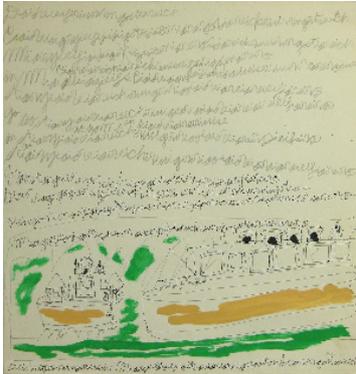
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For further information and images please contact:

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Opening hours: Tuesday till Saturday / 12 – 6 pm

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Dwight Mackintosh: untitled, 1981, pencil, pen, acrylic on paper, 53x56



Dan Miller: untitled, pen and acrylic on paper, 76x29



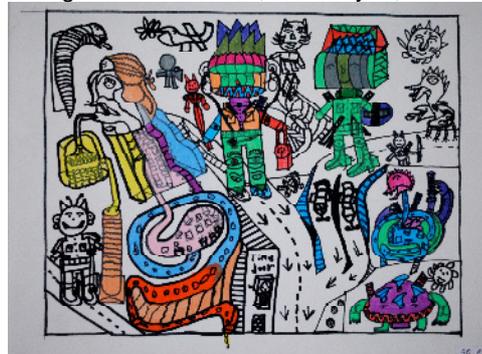
Donald Mitchell: untitled, pen on paper, 30x45



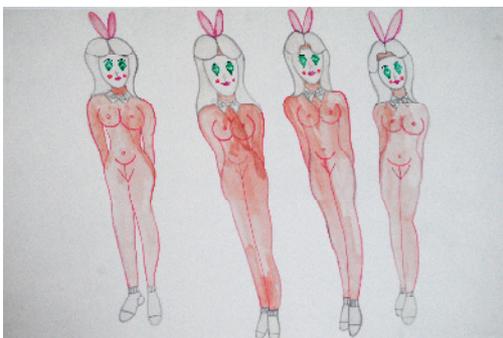
George Wilson: untitled, wax crayon, 76x56



Luis Aguilera: untitled, pen and wax crayon, 28x38,5



Merritt Wallace: 2008, untitled, coloured crayon, pen, 30,5x24



Aurie Ramirez: untitled, water color, 76,4x56,7

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