

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Pamela Ruggio
Phone: 203.438.4519
Email: pruggio@aldrichart.org

Five New Exhibitions! Aldrich Opening Reception: Meet the Artists

Ridgefield, CT (January 2010): One group and four solo exhibitions—dealing with topics that range from world politics to geocaching, a high tech GPS-driven treasure hunt game—will debut at The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum on **Sunday, January 31**, with a public reception from **3:30 to 5:30 pm**.

A creative conversation entitled Art and Politics, featuring artist Tom Molloy in dialogue with curator Joseph Wolin, will take place prior to the reception, at **2:30 pm**. Artists and curators will be available for a meet-and-greet starting at **3:30 pm**, when refreshments will be served. Adults \$7, seniors and college students \$4, members, K-12 teachers, and children 18 & under FREE. WSHU Public Radio and *Ridgefield Magazine* are the official media sponsors of the exhibition reception.

The Aldrich will host a special *Behind the Scenes* preview of the highly anticipated exhibitions on **Friday, January 29**, from **6:30 to 8 pm**, where members are invited to join Aldrich artists, curators, and Trustees for a private reception and sneak preview featuring artists Jeanne Finley and John Muse and their exhibition *Sleeping Under Stars, Living Under Satellites*. Please contact Jessica Musante at 203.438.4519 to join or renew; memberships will be available at the door.

EXHIBITION SUMMARIES:

Paying a Visit to Mary: 2008 Hall Curatorial Fellowship Exhibition

Paying a Visit to Mary comprises work by both emerging and more established artists in a broad range of media, including performance, film, painting, sculpture, and installation. The exhibition explores a significant subject in current artistic practice: personal narrative and contemporary storytelling. Constructed as a “call and response” between different voices, *Paying a Visit to Mary* forms a romantic, conceptual, and highly specific story of our time and our present human condition. The exhibition is seen as a conversation amongst the participants and the audience. The exhibition has been organized by the Canadian curator Maxine Kopsa, a resident of the Netherlands, who is the second recipient of the Hall Curatorial Fellowship.

Jeanne Finley and John Muse: Sleeping Under Stars, Living Under Satellites

The collaborative team of Jeanne Finley and John Muse have based their first major project in the northeast on the sweep of over 200 years of Ridgefield, Connecticut’s, history. The exhibition, explores different ways of keeping time and moving through space by presenting the wanderings of legendary historical figures from Ridgefield, Sarah Bishop and the Leatherman. The paths of these figures will be traced by the artists through the use of multi-channel video projection,

sculptural elements, and geocaching, an online, GPS-driven treasure hunt. Finley and Muse have worked together since 1991.

Chad Kleitsch: White Box—Photographs of the Unseen Museum

Working in various capacities in art museum environments over the years, Chad Kleitsch experienced a side of the institutional space that the public rarely sees. In 2001 he began to ask museums for free access with his camera during exhibition changes, initiating a project that has now encompassed over fourteen museums and nonprofit exhibition spaces, including The Aldrich, The Menil Collection, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and The Museum of Modern Art. Kleitsch's photographs reveal the complex relationship between art and the space in which it is presented, lifting a curtain on a provisional environment where institutional hierarchy is missing or turned upside down; where the division between art and the circumstances of its presentation is blurred; and where the installation processes themselves are aestheticized. Kleitsch's photographs often exhibit a deadpan humor, reveling in the accidental juxtapositions that occur outside the public's view.

Tom Molloy

Tom Molloy is an Irish artist whose work engages with global events, particularly America's place in the new world order. With economical means, the artist manipulates found materials and images to explore the multivalency of symbols. With surgical precision, Molloy operates on potent emblems to excise hidden motives and overlooked correspondences that resonate through recent history. This exhibition will include sculptures, drawings, and photographs created by the artist during the last five years.

Jo Yarrington: Ocular Visions

New York artist Jo Yarrington will utilize cutting-edge ophthalmologic technology to transform The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum's Leir Atrium into a gigantic human eye for her exhibition *Ocular Visions*. Using floor-to-ceiling red transparencies—a color which represents good medical health—created by magnifying a tiny photograph of the inside of her eye, Yarrington will create an ethereal installation which is activated by changing light. As visitors enter the physical space, they will also gain access to her mind's eye—or as Yarrington puts it, “the place from where we create.” Yarrington will also utilize the Museum's only permanent fixture, the camera obscura, for the optical project.

The Aldrich is supported, in part, by the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Institute for Museum and Library Services. *Paying a Visit to Mary: The 2008 Hall Curatorial Fellowship Exhibition* has been made possible, in part, by the generous support of the Andrew J. and Christine C. Hall Foundation and Étant donnés, The French-American Fund for Contemporary Art. *Tom Molloy* has been made possible, in part, by the support of Culture Ireland. The official media sponsors of exhibition openings are *Ridgefield Magazine* and *WSHU Public Radio*.

The Museum: The Aldrich is one of the few independent, non-collecting contemporary art museums in the United States, and the only museum devoted to

contemporary art in Connecticut. The Museum was opened to the public and incorporated as a nonprofit in 1964 by founder Larry Aldrich, who displayed the new work in a landmark 1783 house on Ridgefield's historic Main Street, used today for administrative offices. Since 2004 the galleries have been located in a new 25,000 square-foot facility which received a design award from the American Institute of Architects. Entering a new decade, the Museum is concentrating its exhibition program on solo exhibitions by emerging and mid-career artists, while the acclaimed education programs will continue to be based in the galleries, using the work on view to help adults, families, and over 7,000 students annually to connect to our world through contemporary art. The Museum is located at 258 Main Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877. All exhibitions and programs are handicapped accessible. Free on-site parking. Regular Museum hours are Tuesday through Sunday, 12 noon to 5 pm. For more information call 203.438.4519.