



Opening Reception:
Earth Day, April 22nd, 6 - 8 pm

Exhibit Dates:
April 22 - June 25, 2011

Juror: Peter Nisbet
Chief Curator, Ackland Museum,
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Scrapel Hill, an annual exhibit dedicated to make people think creatively about reuse, features works created from discarded objects and materials.

Scrapel Hill is an ongoing partnership with the Town of Chapel Hill's Public Art Office and University Mall located at 201 S. Estes Drive in Chapel Hill, NC.



A pdf version of this catalog may be downloaded at
www.UniversityMallINC.com

Juror's Statement

Art is a good thing. Recycling is a good thing. Scrapel Hill is therefore a doubly good thing, and I salute the combined ingenuity and dedication of the artists and organizers for this stimulating and enjoyable exhibition. It was an honor to be the juror.

But a set of questions nagged me. Why should art be exempt from the pious exhortation to reduce, reuse, recycle? Should we be making or consuming less art? Are museums just cultural landfills where art objects last forever and never biodegrade? Should we encourage art that envisages its own disposal and recycling? Would our Scrapel Hill artists welcome the actual reuse of their works (by themselves or by others)?

Perhaps discarded and rescued fragments from some of these 15 works will indeed reappear in reconfigured form in some future Scrapel Hill show. But for now we can take pleasure in the wide range of approaches and themes embodied in this diverse grouping. Of course, none of it is inherently good simply because it deals with the issue of recycling, or simply because it uses recycled materials. But when the work goes beyond the clever or the platitudinous, when it throws up unexpected tensions, intriguing irrationalities, or compelling form, then it can stick powerfully in our minds. There, it can be an inspiration for imaginative thinking, reflection, and creativity. And that is the best kind of reuse.

~ Peter Nisbet

1st Place Award - \$2500

pianoNovo

Tom Dawson, Durham, NC

2nd Place Award - \$1500

Let's Cool One

Paul Howe, Greensboro, NC

3rd Place Award - \$1000

Cleanliness Is...

Mia Drabick, Chapel Hill, NC

People's Choice Award - \$500

To be announced Friday, June 10, 2011.
Voting continues through June 8, 2011.



From the Garden

Charron Andrews, Chapel Hill, NC

Re purposed/recycled materials

The inspiration for this piece was a story I wanted to tell by using two small doors I'd found at the Habitat Resale Store.

These mounted doors act like a book and allow me to experiment with ideas that open the viewer into a story. As I applied bits and pieces of discarded records, books, fabric, bottle tops, and jar lids to the doors and the panel beneath them, the story started to tell itself.

The left door piece, when opened, is the beginning, the birth, of the story. Across the inner panel and onto the open door on the right, the story moves in an arc from birth to death. The woman in the middle of the panel imagines or creates it all in her mind's eye. Everything flows from her. The doors when closed evoke a garden. This is where the entire story begins.

For this exhibit the doors as kept partially opened to avoid wear. The pictures below give a panoramic view of the story inside and well as a complete image of the garden when the doors are latched shut.





Free for All

Jane Bergman, Chapel Hill, NC

Wire, coat hangers, fencing, wood, packaging papers, cereal liners, colored plastic bags & scrap fabric

With this sculpture it is my intention to balance whimsy with serious consideration.

A variety of domestic and exotic animals are shown breaking out of enclosures and cages. The viewer's attention is likely to be attracted first to the animals, and then to the fact they have been confined. A stark contrast exists between the lively and colorful animals and the fixed enclosures that hold them.

The sculpture asks the viewer to reconsider our practice and methods of confining animals and suggests how joyous it might be if they were freed.



pianoNovo

Tom Dawson, Durham, NC

Reclaimed piano parts

1st Place Award

I stumbled on a repulsive scene: three men were beating a piano with hammers. It screamed minor chords like a living thing. The men were house cleaners who were removing the remnants of the former inhabitants. To me it seemed like a horrible waste of something old and beautiful.

Pianos have emotional and physical gravity. For several generations they were a symbol of affluence, permanence and culture. The older piano-playing generations are fading and leaving their instruments to untrained hands. Most of these go unwanted and are building blocks in the great pyramids of trash our culture builds. So I stopped the man and took ownership of the still resounding 400 pound piano. After I examined the hammer marks, I began to realize that it was no longer a piano. I did not have the ability to make it appropriately musical. The piano had to become something new. I started to take it apart with ominous bongs and clangs that became the score to my work. The pianoNovo project is a conversation in form between the piano builders, the piano smashers and myself. As I refashioned it, I thought about the changing generational ideas of beauty, permanence and disposability. I thought about the transitions from actual music of pianos to the “frozen music” of sculpture.



Exhumed

Michael Dodson, Waynesville, NC

Post-consumer waste items

Exhumed alludes to ancient civilization and the deepest roots of our culture.

The materials which are used to construct this column are the refuse of our modern society's endless consuming.

The wasted materials are layered and can be viewed as an artifact of our contemporary culture, a core sample of some imaginary landfill, and what we are leaving behind for whomever to discover.



Cleanliness Is...

Mia Drabick, Chapel Hill, NC

Salvaged sink, PVC pipe and paint

3rd Place Award

As an artist that works with found objects and collage, I deal with the piecing together of bodies and gender identities. In contemporary American culture, bodies are constructed as individual and social projects. Turning the body into a work of art only reinforces the personal desire to design the body as a project of its own – to be shaped and decorated, the outer expressing one's inner self. However, many of our body projects have inherent tensions – healthy dieting and eating disorders, fashion and bodily manipulation, the physical and the psychological.

My most recent work, *Cleanliness Is...*, references the long history of the glorification of cleanliness (particularly for females). But the re-appropriation of scrap materials creates tension between the once discarded sink and the newly glorified sculpture. The piece presents a new form caught in limbo, with an uncertain role, caught between what is and what could be, calling to mind bodily functions while at the same time being a beacon of sterility, a personal act shaped by an external hand.

Of Men and Women

Lawrence Feir, Greensboro, NC

Welded steel discards from automotive industry



A study of human dimorphism.

This collection of five human forms explores the similarities and differences between the male and female body. This figurative study is rendered in welded steel discards produced by the automotive transmission industry.

I am an artist working almost exclusively in recycled materials, mostly figurative work rendered in welded steel. From discarded cutlery to abandoned industrial components, I strive to give cold inanimate discarded materials a new life in the shape of the human form.

The Babe Series, Part 1 - Financial Awearness

Babe #1: *Your Name Here*

Babe #2: *You're Pre-Approved!*

Babe #3: *Save Your Pennies*

Amy Fletcher, Hillsborough, NC

Reclaimed body forms, shredded credit cards, solicitations and spare change



“The Babe Series, Part One: *Financial Awearness*” carries an important underlying theme that revolves around debt, the persistent efforts of credit lenders to gain new customers with their invitations to open “pre-approved” new accounts, and the importance of saving.

The “Babes” are the headless female torsos that are used for various displays at my workplace. When they are no longer needed, they are simply discarded. There were several bags of Babes headed for the trash compactor and I knew I had to save some of them from their demise. The inspiration for the pieces came from shredding my old credit cards. I kept the shreds knowing that, these too, were going play an important role in an art project.

As I began working on my pieces, I realized that in essence many people are literally, wearing their debt, having purchased clothes (and other items) with credit. Because the Babes are molded into human form they figuratively represent the efforts of millions of people to free themselves from the confines of debt and are dedicated to everyone who has been affected by the recent recession.



Summer Quilt and Google Earth

Ann Glover, Roanoke, VA

Found tin collage on recycled plywood

Process is at the center of this work, materially and conceptually. I am interested in using units of measure from found materials in the same way that quilters, collagists and musicians sample materials used in other forms.

The first pieces came from containers found at my Chinese grocery store while living in Los Angeles. Returning to Virginia, I was reabsorbed into the culture of domestic handwork of all kinds, including family quilts.

The materials come from many sources, and often involve the contributions from friends: trays and containers found at thrift stores, my kitchen pantry and the castoffs of other households.

An intermingling of high and low, scavenging and immersion, my work mixes the celebration of everyday objects and discovery of the cumulative effects of a meditative process.



Clouds Series
LP Cover Inlays, 2011

Nuno Gomes, Chapel Hill, NC

Cardboard & glue



The long play record was always a great multimedia experience, the music along with the art of the cover. The large print piece that was the LP cover is now lost, mostly to MP3's, CD's and tape cassettes before that.

This project repurposes LP covers, much like a remix or musical mash up, using visual "samples" to build something new.

Pieces are cut from their original context and reassembled like a jig saw puzzle, inlaid into other LP covers. This reconstruction creates chance intersections of art and copy, in some amusing and unexpected ways.



Obsolescence Trap

Mark Gordon, Wilson, NC

Salvaged wood, metal and objects

The *Obsolescence Trap* was conceived in an attempt to commemorate the inexorable march of time—specifically, its effect on changing technology.

A cylindrical mesh drum, suspended from a structure of wood and steel, recalls a rustic ceremonial gateway, a primitive pendulum, a rough-hewn gallows. Hanging with chain from a block and tackle, the cylinder is packed with superannuated electric devices including a telephone, lamp, copier, printer, fan, toaster; scientific scale, ohm meter, drill, CD player, and computer. This mixed-media sculptural assemblage may suggest a metaphoric fishing net lowered into a mysterious industrial well or an aquatic trapper exploring an object-filled waste pond, dredging up a disorganized array of invented technological miracles—once exciting, but now outdated.

This motley melange of objects, a jumble of juxtaposed manufactured metal and plastic, highlights a group of isolated and decontextualized artifacts carelessly left behind as scrap, the discarded victims of change.



Let's Cool One

Paul Howe, Greensboro, NC

Reclaimed steel pipe and rebar

2nd Place Award

It's not as if I think steel will ever actually assemble itself into a living organism, but steel, so present, so essential in our built up environment, does have a certain life of its own already. It's everywhere, and it moves and sprawls. It is born, thrives, withers and dies.

I often wonder how natural all of that is. It could be. I'm thinking we just have to respect it, acknowledge its kind of life, lest it bites back. I make my work with this in mind, and I nod my head in reverence of what possibilities the material may hold, while acknowledging our failure to really live up to it.

The fantasy, the wild, the vague, the strange, the mutated, the removed, seems the only way to do that without adding insult to injury.



Playing It Safe

Carter Hubbard, Carrboro, NC

Recycled paper bags, compost containing used electronic gadgets, clothing, wheat grass

Captivated by attaining happiness through costly trappings, our culture is lead down a path to incredible debt while adding to the waste stream that has become excessive.

Philosophers since Aristotle have claimed that experiences fulfill us more than material goods.

As we 'buy our way to happiness', all of the sudden, it seems, 'the bottom falls out' perhaps due to neglect of what is truly worthy of our undivided attention - a tangible, primary, one on one experience.

Now there is an experience that does not cost a dime and its worth is beyond measure.

What can you give up to gain an experience to treasure?

Denizens of the Deep

Randall Jones, Chapel Hill, NC

Rescued Materials



These Pisces are pieces of metal, plastic, coat hangers, venetian blinds (hence the sunglasses), gutter guards, and a lot of imagination. They were purchased at the local PTA stores. They were rescued from the recycling center (AKA: The Chatham Boutique).

There are seven FISH, one EEL, one GATOR, and one FROG LURE (weedless).

These creatures can be free-standing, hanging from hooks, or mounted on your wall. They are a fine addition to your office or den. Their shadows create the illusion of movement.

They can be indoors or outdoors and might even be seen in fine museums, such as they have in Paris.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle then turn into art.



Peepshow

Rob Lineberger, Durham, NC

Salvaged computer media

In early 2009 I picked up a hard drive platter and realized it was a perfect mirror with an eyehole in the center. A barrage of images struck me at that moment; chiefly a polygon with an infinite reflective interior. I imagined people walking up to the sculpture and peering inside to spy a kaleidoscopic wonderland of reflected eyes and light. Excitement grew as I pondered the reuse of outdated computer media and the symbolic undertones of peering at data, the permanence of metal in landfills, and shared vision.

Making the idea real was challenging -- did you know some hard discs are made of tempered glass which explodes when flexed?

It is gratifying to have *Peepshow* complete and on display in this fantastic interactive space -- and to still have both eyeballs intact.



Iron Butterfly

Mike Roig, Carrboro, NC

Reused cast iron

Iron Butterfly is a cast iron sculpture made from melted down radiators, tubs, sinks, and any other relics we could break up with a sledge and feed into the furnaces at the iron pour in Moncure, NC. The pedestal is fabricated from my usual stock of supplies from my favorite art supply store, Bish Scrap Metals.

In keeping with the theme of recycling I can also tell you the original form was carved from the remnant pieces of foam insulation panes I had accumulated from the studio-building project of the previous winter. Packed into resin-bonded sand the molten iron burned away the foam as it poured into the moulds, burning pathways in quick moving fits and starts that left the surface of the sculpture textured with random fissuring – an instantly ancient artifact.

Administers' Statements

When Scrapel Hill was first discussed in July 2008 by University Mall management, U Mall merchants, the Town of Chapel Hill, Orange County Recycling and others, we had no idea that the concept of creating art from scrap materials would have the staying power that it has. The creativity of the various artists who have participated never ceases to amaze, and the program has grown from a one time show juried by a group of mall merchants and visitors to a professionally organized art exhibition juried by a well respected art museum curator. Jennifer, mall management and staff are dedicated to seeing Scrapel Hill become a premier annual exhibition through their patronage of the substantial awards, as well as, doing whatever it takes to produce this great event that mall store owners and visitors look forward to each year. That a Mall places so much emphasis on exhibiting local artists is remarkable. I remember when I talked about organizing exhibitions for the mall at a national conference. My colleagues were quite impressed, as very few retail centers see part of their mission as an exhibit space.

The Town of Chapel Hill is delighted to partner with University Mall on presenting Scrapel Hill, although the lion's share of this year's exhibition was born by Jennifer and the Mall staff. Chapel Hill wants to be known as an art destination. Exhibitions like Scrapel Hill help that effort by providing another venue to exhibit the talents of area artists.

~ Jeff York, Town of Chapel Hill, Office of Public Art

It has been a pleasure to organize and present Scrapel Hill and bring it to the community again this year. Throughout its three year history, Scrapel Hill has continued to strengthen in scope and content. It is always an enjoyable process, and most rewarding when I see visitors, adults and children alike, enjoy the works on display throughout the mall.

This year special attention was given to the exhibit design and presentation. Materials and mechanisms were chosen due to their "green" or eco-friendly qualities like multi-use, reusable components, non vinyl-based signage, and conscientious efforts to reduce paper use through digital promotions, including this free downloadable catalogue (which can be downloaded at www.UniversityMallINC.com/ScrapelHill).

We hope you visit Scrapel Hill many times throughout its run (exhibit ends June 25, 2011) and take part in voting for your favorite piece for the People's Choice Award which will be announced during University Mall's 2nd Friday ArtWalk held on June 10th between 6 - 8 pm.

Thank you and enjoy the exhibit.

*~ Jennifer Collins-Mancour,
Arts Initiative Director, University Mall*

Press & Reviews:

For links to the following publicity, visit
UniversityMallNC.com/ScrapelHill

***At Scrapel Hill, scrap becomes
whimsical, imposing art***

Cliff Bellamy, Herald-Sun Newspaper
4/22/2011

***Public Art + Earth Day = Scrapel Hill
at University Mall***

Matt Zigler, nc artblog
4/24/2011