

AVA GERBER



Notions, 1997
fabric & wire
11' x 5' x 5'

JEFFREY GURECKA



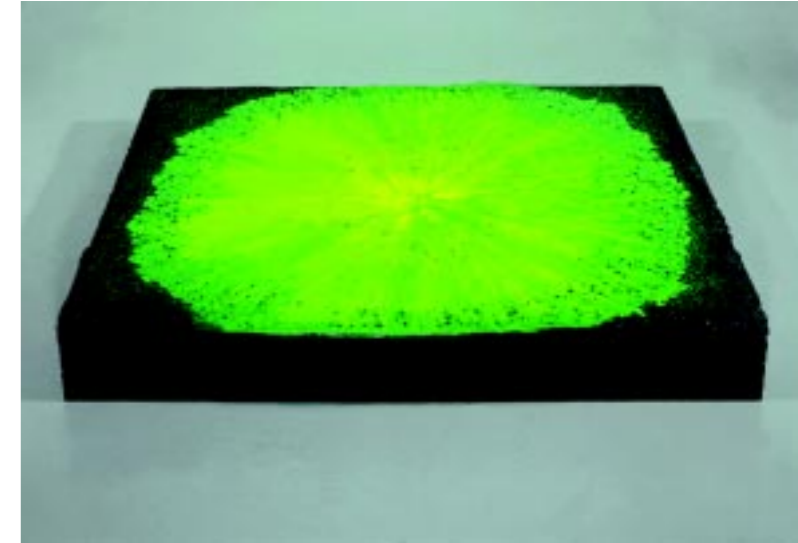
Still-life #10, 1996
decayed & dried oranges, photographs, foam, wood
27" x 18"

DREW SHIFLETT



Cityscape, 1996
fabric, paper-maché, wood, cardboard, styrofoam, conduit,
metal scrap tileboard, paint, 47" x 36" x 43"

SUSANNA STARR



Soakup, 1997
sponge & acrylic paint
48" x 36" x 6"

Exhibiting Artists

Ava Gerber

Born: Dover, Ohio 1961
BFA, Columbus College of Art & Design, 1985
MFA, Pratt Institute, 1987

Jeffrey Gurecka

Born: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 1968
BFA, Clarion State University of Pennsylvania, 1991
MFA, Pratt Institute, 1996

Drew Shiflett

Born: Chicago, Illinois 1951
BA, Columbia College, Chicago, 1974
MFA, Maryland Institute, College of Art, Hoffberger
School of Painting, 1978

Susanna Starr

Born: Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1960
BFA, Maryland Institute, College of Art, 1986
MFA, Yale School of Art, 1988

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Wake Forest University Fine Arts Gallery

February 12 - March 28, 1999

Making It Up

Making It Up exhibits the work of four artists who use improvisation along with a palette of everyday materials, including fabric, fruit, sponges, papier mache, wood, paint, etc. in the process of *making up* their work. The materials in themselves are not exotic, often tried and true, but like the use of the saxophone in jazz, unquestionably right for the creation of the sculpture.

The first impression we often have of spontaneous passages in jazz or visual art is that they are formless, haphazard. It is only when one becomes more familiar with the work that form and discipline are apparent. Yet spontaneity and improvisations that look or sound good are often the result of lots of practice and hard work. Craft must be mastered, even if it is subverted. Decisions to rework or accept riffs and passages are continually made and remade during the creative process. Finding the right material or the exact way to work with it may take months or years of experimentation.

Utilizing the accidental, the informal, the offhand is a talent shared by these four artists. From Drew Schiflett's sublime orchestration of everyday stuff to Susanna Starr's experiments with huge pools of paint on giant sponges; from Ava Gerber's fragile evocations of self, to Jeffrey Gurecka's meditations on decay, the artists in *Making It Up* are all masters of the illusion of spontaneity.

Exhibition Curators

David Finn
Victor Faccinto

M a k i n g
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