

DEB TODD WHEELER

Born, Houston, Texas. Lives and works in the Boston area.

EDUCATION

BA University of Vermont

MFA Massachusetts College of Art

SOLO EXHIBITIONS & PROJECTS

- 2011 *So She Floats* New Britain Museum of American Art New Britain, Connecticut
Holoplanktonika: an Illustrated Book of Impressions Ningyo Editions Watertown, Massachusetts
- 2010 *Blew*, Miller Block Gallery Boston, Massachusetts
- 2006 *Live Experiments in Human Energy Exchange*, Green Street Gallery Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts
- 2005 *The Ludicrum Machines* John Michael Kohler Art Center Sheboygan, Wisconsin (catalog forthcoming)
- 2004 *Fly* Hoffmaster Gallery at Lawrence University, Appleton, Wisconsin

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2011 *In Bloom* Islip Art Museum Islip, New York
- 2010 *EXCHANGE* ICA at MeCA Portland, Maine
- 2009 *Near Everywhere* GASP Brookline, Massachusetts
Megapolis: Audio Art and Documentary Festival, Pierre Menard Gallery Cambridge, Massachusetts
- 2008 *Figment's Imagination* MillerBlock Gallery Boston, Massachusetts
Body Prop UNI Art Gallery Cedar Falls, Iowa
Consumer Garden Allston Skirt Gallery Boston, Massachusetts
- 2007 *In Situ* Bakalar Gallery at Mass College of Art and Design Boston, Massachusetts
- 2005 *Mass Media* Axiom Gallery Allston, Massachusetts
Séance FPAC Gallery Boston, Massachusetts
Virtual Tangible Reinberger Galleries, Cleveland Institute of Art Cleveland, Ohio
Concerning the Spiritual in Art, Photographic Resource Center at Boston University Boston, Massachusetts
- 2003 *Moth House* Brandt Gallery Massachusetts College of Art Boston, Massachusetts

So She Floats, one of 21 photographic still from the six-minute video by Deb Todd Wheeler

SELECTED REVIEWS

- 2010 *The Boston Globe* "Top 10 Exhibits in 2010: A Year of Promising Signs" by Cate McQuaid Dec 10
The Boston Globe "Adrift on a sea of our own making" by Cate McQuaid Jun 10
The Boston Phoenix "Head Games" by Greg Cook, Jun 10
- 2008 *The Boston Globe* "Sculptures Built with Fear and Hope" by Cate McQuaid, Oct 08
Boston Phoenix "Best of 2007" by Greg Cook
The New England Journal of Aesthetic Research "Best of 2007" by Greg Cook, Jan 08
- 2007 *Art in America* "Deb Todd Wheeler at Green Street" by Ann Wilson Lloyd, May 07
- 2002 *Greater Boston Arts* on PBS Deb Todd Wheeler produced by John Baylor Jan '02

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS & RESIDENCIES

- 2011 Best solo exhibition 2011 and Best New Media Exhibition New England Journal of Aesthetic Research
- 2010 Visiting Artist ad Lecture Greens Farms Academy, Westport, Connecticut
Lecture: Maine College of Art Portland, Maine
- 2009 Lecture: The Beauty in Failure Harvard Medical School Boston, Massachusetts
- 2008- Fullbright Screening Committee New York, New York
- 2011 Lecture: Conspirators in the Studio Savannah College of Art and Design Savannah, Georgia
- 2006 LEF Foundation Contemporary Work Fund Grant
Visiting Artist Rhode Island School of Design Providence, Rhode Island
- 2003 Massachusetts Cultural Council, Individual Artist Grant in Sculpture/Installation



This exhibition is sponsored through the generosity of the Saint-Gaudens Memorial.

The Saint-Gaudens Memorial is a private, non-profit organization chartered by the State of New Hampshire in 1919, to preserve and exhibit Saint-Gaudens's home and studios and to preserve his work there. The Memorial operated the site as a museum until 1965, when they donated the property to the National Park Service to become the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site. The Memorial continues to play an important role as a park partner and supports the Site in a variety of ways including sponsoring programs and activities such as this exhibition, the summer concert series, and other events that increase public awareness of

Augustus Saint-Gaudens and his works, and that promote sculpture and the arts in general.

The Fellowship of the Saint-Gaudens Memorial was established in 1977 to assist artists of promise. A Fellow is selected annually by the Saint-Gaudens Memorial, from a pool of candidates put forward by the Fellowship Committee and advisors, and is awarded to artists who have completed a body of work that demonstrates exceptional talent, and who may benefit from the recognition and financial grant that accompany the Fellowship. The year following the Fellowship, the artist submits works for installation, as part of the Saint-Gaudens Memorial exhibition series at the Picture Gallery.

To find out more or to help us by becoming a friend of Saint-Gaudens please contact us at (914) 944-1608 or email us at SGMemorial@aol.com or visit us on the web at www.sgnhs.org.



High Sea, one of 21 photographic prints in series, 37" x 180"

BLEW

recent work by DEB TODD WHEELER

Artist's Statement:

In BLEW, I explore qualities of this ubiquitous material (blown film polyethylene), from its chromatic subtleties to its potential as an impenetrable membrane. In 1988, the discovery of a patch of accumulated plastic debris in the North Pacific larger than the size of Texas captured the imagination of many, providing tangible evidence that indeed nothing we make ever really leaves us.

High Sea offers shades of grey and tonal shifts in blue polyethylene. Manipulated on a flatbed scanner, they resemble a ten-foot-long ocean wave just as in *Men of War*, where blown film polyethylene is stretched and shaped into forms. When printed the images recall sea creatures floating in an inky black ground.

Further transformation occurs in my video studies. *So She Floats* features a dress, which inflates by foot pumps turned into shoes. The wearer of the welded polyethylene dress walks while being inflated by her foot-pump-wearing companion, who follows her to the water. A circular raft awaits her. You see the dress wearer detaching the tubes from her companion, taking her holey oar and heading out to sea. Instead, she ends up endlessly spinning around.

The same dress is featured in shadow form in *Do and Be Done With Me*. A blob-like shadow transforms into a romantic Victorian-era figure, who is a magnet to a seemingly endless stream of colorful flying bags.

The Conversation part 1 is a video of six ants investigating their surroundings, but the ants themselves are not there – transparent colored plastic discs replace their forms. Their movements and trails are unmistakably “ant,” as they confer in the center and then go off one by one to explore their space.



So She Floats, one of 21 photographic stills from the six-minute video by Deb Todd Wheeler

June 4 – July 4, 2011

*Saint-Gaudens Memorial Exhibitions at the Picture Gallery
Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site, Cornish, New Hampshire*