



For Immediate Release

FEAR STRIKES BACK

Exhibition Opening Reception:
Friday, April 26, 2013 from 7 to 9 pm
Curated by Helen Frederick
Apprentice Curator, Jessica Pavone

Contact: info@dcartscenter.org
202-462-7833 cell: 202-379-5601
www.dcartscenter.org



Nick Collier, *VS.*, 2012, Welded Steel, Wood, Mixed Media, 36" X 20" X 18," Courtesy the Artist

Curator Helen Frederick elicits the reactions of thirteen Baltimore-Washington DC based artists, who use various art mediums to question our current problematic conditions with regards to social issues and justice, in the exhibition FEAR STRIKES BACK.

This exhibition examines how we handle our fears and anxieties culturally, and how we build upon distortions of information fed to us by various types of media and social networking. One of the most urgent challenges facing society today is how we live with people who differ economically, racially, religiously, and ethnically. The thirteen artists selected were asked to present works that may transfigure suffering into other concepts, depending on their sensibilities.

In this exhibition are the works of Shahla Arbabi, Ed Bisese, Colby Caldwell, David Carlson, Mei Mei Chang, Michele Colburn, Nick Collier, Anna U. Davis, Sam Holmes, David Page, Annette Polan, Joyce J. Scott, and Julia Kim Smith. All the artists in the exhibit are, in various ways, dedicated to community work and observing realities that affect their particular dilemmas and their unique positions in their communities, voicing their opinions without turning their backs. These major artists feature installations, new media, sculpture, video, sound, and two-dimensional works on paper and canvas.

The theme **FEAR STRIKES BACK** is derived from James Elkin's book *The Object Stares Back* that supplies reasoning for how we see and how we don't. The title also refers to how we too often "look back" in terms of concerns of social justice. The work in **FEAR STRIKES BACK**, allows us to observe our 21st century overexposure to the troubling, violent, and sometime staged images, which can lead us to mixed emotions – enjoying the spectacle of a horrible situation or sobering subject, while wanting it to stop or be stopped.

Susan Sontag professes in *Regarding the Pain of Others* that "the image as shock and the image as cliché are two aspects of the same presence." Sontag also declares that there is not collective memory but collective instruction. In photography for example "The problem is not that people remember through photographs, but that they remember only the photographs....this...eclipses other forms of understanding, and remembering." Sontag goes on; "At the beginning of modernity, it may have been easier to acknowledge that there exists an innate tropism toward the gruesome." When we apply these concepts to the information that we are fed through our contemporary media and social networks, it is apparent that subversive influences are part of our lives.



Ed Bisese, *Paladin Unconscious*, 2013, Chalk and tempera on three stacked sheets of builder's paper, 53" x 72," Courtesy the Artist

FEAR STRIKES BACK will be open from Friday, April 26 to Sunday, June 2, 2013. Opening reception on Friday, April 26 from 7 to 9 pm. Artists talk on Sunday, June 2 at 5:00 pm. Gallery hours are Wednesdays through Sundays from 2 to 7 pm. All events are free and open to the public and are at DC Arts Center (DCAC), 2438 18th Street NW, Washington DC. For more information call 202-462-7833, email info@dcartscenter.org, or visit www.dcartscenter.org.