

BUY THE CATALOG

CAC produced a full-color catalog for the exhibition, which features an essay by **Thomas Lawson**, an interview with curator **Ragan Cole-Cunningham**, images from the exhibition and an informative Q+A with the artists. The catalog is for sale in CAC's Museum Shop for \$29.95.

Featuring works by:

Laylah Ali + Ida Applebroog

Kevin Appel + Philip Guston

Judith Eisler + Richard Prince

Inka Essenhigh + Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec

Barnaby Furnas + Carroll Dunham

Laura Owens + Mary Heilmann

Kanishka Raja + Kerry James Marshall

George Rush + Fairfield Porter

Tu-Fr: 10am-5pm
Sat: 10am-4pm
Sun: 12-4pm
Closed Mon.
2200 Parks Avenue
Virginia Beach, VA 23451
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www.cacv.org



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June 29-September 23, 2007



CONTEMPORARY ART
CENTER of VIRGINIA

Counterparts: Contemporary Painters and Their Influences originated in September 2005 as the Contemporary Art Center of Virginia (CAC) adopted a new strategic plan, one that merged its exhibition and education departments into a single entity with shared goals and philosophies. CAC's educational focus is inherently inclusive. Our educators are committed to working with visitors to facilitate conversations about the most significant art of our time. This inclusivity welcomes a wide variety of ideas and interpretations and elicits a collective learning experience. In order to accomplish this mission, we use an inquiry-based model and active listening methodology to inform our research initiatives and to create a larger conversation between artists' works and the community.

This ideological framework informed decisions made throughout the "*Counterparts*" project. As the Museum looked at its archive of past exhibitions, we questioned why we had not created a show solely devoted to paint media. Auction prices at places like Sotheby's and Christie's sky-rocketed, our own Studio School painting classes had maximum enrollment with long waiting lists, and in our personalized discussions with visitors we found that they were mesmerized by painting, whether for its current social discourse or through a long understanding of art history.

To narrow the scope of the project we focused strictly on contemporary American painters. CAC staff members came up with names, and the composed lists easily exceeded 200 artists. Due to spatial constraints and a desire to create a cohesive exhibition, one where viewers could study emerging

artists and engage in the rich dialog the medium provided, we narrowed the scope further. We asked colleagues in the field--artists, art educators, museum administrators and the like--to provide lists of painters who they felt were making the greatest strides in the art world and those painters who would resonate for years to come. CAC collected the lists, found duplication and uncovered the talents of eight artists:

Laylah Ali, Kevin Appel, Judith Eisler, Inka Essenhigh, Barnaby Furnas, Laura Owens, Kanishka Raja and George Rush.

Artists generally reference numerous sources in their studio pursuits, but in order to provide a glimpse of contemporary painting's history, we asked these artists to name their personal heroes in the realm of paint media. The dialog held between the initial artist group and the Museum played out via email, phone conversation and through individual studio visits. Because of our mission, this conversation became particularly important. While the task was daunting for some, answers came easily for others, and the following pair-groups were determined:

Laylah Ali + Ida Applebroog

Kevin Appel + Philip Guston

Judith Eisler + Richard Prince

Inka Essenhigh + Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec

Barnaby Furnas + Carroll Dunham

Laura Owens + Mary Heilmann

Kanishka Raja + Kerry James Marshall

George Rush + Fairfield Porter

In this exhibition we ask you, the viewer, to examine junior artists in the field of contemporary painting in relation to

their mentors in the discipline. Some questions to contemplate while traveling through the space:

Where is it noticeable when one artist influences another? What are the signifiers or clues? Does the pairing reveal a sense of history? How?

How are you responding to the work in front of you and how would you describe this response to another individual?

Just as artists have an internal dialog in their studios and conversations with other artists, we strike a personalized, interpretive conversation when experiencing art in the gallery. What conversations are being had?

What types of ideas, or what meaning(s), are derived through the artists' works?

How does the subject, process and/or formal attributes inform these ideas?

While it may or may not be immediately evident how one artist influences another, we hope you will study the visual conversation between artist pair-groups and the entire collection of works in the show. Throughout the exhibit you will find labels with relevant information as it pertains to each piece, along with the artists' respective biographies. Further dialog can be found in the "*Counterparts*" catalog which has been provided in the reading area of the gallery space. This publication is available for purchase in CAC's Museum Shop.

Ragan Cole-Cunningham,
director of exhibitions and education

Organized by the Contemporary Art Center of Virginia (CAC).

Curated by Ragan Cole-Cunningham, CAC staff, "*Counterparts*" artists and our colleagues in the field of visual art.

CAC thanks all of the artists in the exhibition.

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