

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

moniquemeloche is pleased to announce the group exhibition

Winter Experiment: Year in Review 2012

featuring work by

Justin Cooper

Sheree Hovsepian

Joel Ross in collaboration with Jason Creps

Carrie Schneider

January 5 – 25, 2013

Our new year's resolution: to be ever-present in this contemporary moment, while remaining resolutely conscious of our past, and ambitious and hopeful for the future.

Justin Cooper's new series of drawings *Fields* are built up through a repetitive act of mark making to suggest a phantom, imagined microscopy at various degrees of magnification. While smaller moments within the drawing mime that of the casual doodle, Cooper elevates these smaller gestures to an extreme, all-over monumentality. Jason Foubberg in Chicago Magazine describes these drawings as "some of his best yet."

Sheree Hovsepian's work is a multi-faceted investigation of photographic processes. In our first solo show with the artist, Hovsepian's black and white photograms, hypnotic video, and delicately balanced wall-based installations have a physicality that relates very naturally to the body, and more specifically to the artist's hand. Touch, or the haptic sense, may be more commonly associated with painting or sculpture, but Hovsepian's tactile manipulations are very present in her mostly abstract photographic works.

The *Alleys and Parking Lots* series continues **Joel Ross's** interest in public signage, veering off the open road to examine text as it interacts with the built environment: the in-between spaces of alleys and parking lots. The artists construct signs, which they clandestinely install, photograph, and abandon at locations between Chicago and Southern Illinois, resulting in a series of large-scale, color photographs.

For this exhibition, Schneider produced a series of fifteen large-scale color photographs of a house engulfed in flames. Standing alone on an island in the middle of a lake, the small house burns eternally, with each photograph capturing the fire at different times of day, in various seasons and weather conditions.

In response to Robert Smithson's works and writings, specifically those on entropy, Schneider conceived of *Burning House* to undermine the second law of thermodynamics by creating a fire that never fully destroys a house. These striking, cinematic landscape photographs continue Schneider's interest in representing the psychological by staging uncanny scenarios.

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Further CV information available on the website.

Justin Cooper (American, b. 1976, lives NY) has an MFA in sculpture, performance, and video from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago (2005), a BFA from the University of Colorado (2003), and studied at the Sorbonne, Paris (2002). He had a residency at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in Maine (2007) and was included in the 2003 Colorado Biennial at the Museum of Contemporary Art Denver. In 2012, Cooper and long-time collaborator Ross Moreno performed at the Sculpture Center, Socrates Sculpture Park in Queens, NY; Synchronicity Space, LA; Dixon Place, NYC; and RedLine, Milwaukee. Cooper has had solo exhibitions at Beta Pictoris, Birmingham, AL and the Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design, Denver, CO. Recent group exhibitions include *A chair tranceformed* and *Under Construction* at Hotel Particulier in NY, *Afterimage* at DePaul Museum of Art, Chicago, and *hi*a*tus* at Grand Rapids Art Center, MI.

Sheree Hovsepien (American b. Isfahan Iran 1974, lives NY) received her BFA/BA from the University of Toledo in 1999, studied at The Glasgow School of Art, Scotland and received her MFA from SAIC in 2002. Upcoming exhibitions include Yossi Milo Gallery in NY, Bischoff Weiss in London, and Wentrup Gallery in Berlin. Hovsepien has presented solo shows at Gallery Etemad in Dubai, Charest-Weinberg Gallery in Miami, The West Street Gallery in NY, and the Spertus Museum in Chicago. She was included in group exhibitions at Nicole Klagsbrun Gallery in NY, Sommer Contemporary Art in Tel Aviv, Israel, *Brucennial 2012: Harderer, Betterer, Fasterer, Stronger* in NY, and *Harlem Postcards* at the Studio Museum in Harlem in NY. She was a recipient of the Aljira Emerge 20 Residency in Newark NJ, a CAAP Grant, and travel and graduate grants from SAIC. Her work is in the permanent collections of the Studio Museum in Harlem, The Art Institute of Chicago, and the Spertus Museum Chicago.

Joel Ross (American, born 1966, lives Urbana, IL) holds an MFA from the Cranbrook Academy of Art and a BFA from Tufts University. Born in Port Arthur, Texas, he is the son of a police sergeant and the grandson of a Baptist preacher. He received a discharge from the United States Marine Corps in 1984. Currently he is an Associate Professor in the School of Art and Design at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Recent exhibitions include *It's Not My First Time*, Beta Pictoris Maus Contemporary Art, Birmingham AL; *(No) Vacancy*, Carrie Secrist Gallery, Chicago IL; and *Write Now!* curated by Nathan Mason, Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago IL.

Jason Creps (American, born 1975, lives Chicago, IL) received his BFA from Columbus College of Art and Design in his home state of Ohio and promptly entered the world of commercial photography. He then spent as much time as possible living in vans and busses while touring as a musician. Chicago became home in 2000 and from there, he works as a photographer, performs with the bands Man Is Man and The Glorious Vapors and makes multimedia installations with One Degree Off.

Carrie Schneider (born Chicago, 1979; lives New York) earned her BFA from Carnegie Mellon University in 2001 and her MFA from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2007. Upon graduating, Schneider attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture and had a year-long Fulbright Fellowship at the Kuvataideakatemia Finnish Academy of Fine Arts in Helsinki in 2008. Schneider has had solo shows at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago; the Finnish Museum of Photography Helsinki; The Robert T. Wright Community Gallery of Art, College of Lake County, Grayslake, IL; Galleri KiT/Trondheim Academy of Art Norway; and Gallery Kalhama & Piippo Helsinki. Her work is currently in a group show at the Haggerty Museum in Milwaukee, WI, and has recently been featured in exhibitions at Eli Ridgway Gallery, the *2011 Pittsburgh*

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Biennial at The Andy Warhol Museum, The Kitchen and Higher Pictures in NY, Regina Rex and Dumbo Arts Center in Brooklyn, Columbia College Chicago, Artspace in New Haven, and the Kunsthall Charlottenborg in Copenhagen, Denmark. Her work is in the permanent collections of The Art Institute of Chicago, Museum of Contemporary Photography Chicago, and the Centre Canadien d'Architecture, Montreal, Quebec.

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