

PRESS RELEASE---For Immediate Release

EXHIBITION DATES: January 20 - March 4, 2011

OPENING RECEPTION: January 20, 5:30 - 8:30pm (*Thursday*)

SPECIAL EVENT: January 29, 10:00am-4:00pm (*Saturday*) PDC Open to Public/11:00am Performance by Anna Homler

MAIN EXHIBITION: **STACCATO: Graphite Drawings by Jennifer Celio, Haikuhie Tataryan, and Christine Weir & Sculptural Installation by Julia Westerbeke**

PROJECT ROOM: **Pharmacia Poetica Installation Project by Anna Homler with Helen Van der Neer & Elaine Parks**

den contemporary art is pleased to present 'Staccato', a visually striking exhibition in contrasting black and white featuring four artists who use thousands of distinctive marks to create arresting works: graphite drawings by Los Angeles-based artists *Jennifer Celio*, *Haikuhie Tataryan*, and *Christine Weir*, and mixed media sculptural installation by New York-based artist *Julia Westerbeke*. The exhibition will be on view through March 4, 2011.

The artists utilize an unorthodox approach to "drawing." Rather than using extended lines or broad strokes and curves, their technique is more physically demanding with minute mark-making to create the imagery. With their own take on the use of "line," the movement is more disciplined, the energy abbreviated and repetitive instead of the extended push/pull of the pencil and pen. The artists embrace the challenge of the process and shift the viewer's perspective of scale with their visually complex work.

Jennifer Celio renders imagined landscapes tapering off into fields of pure white to depict urban deterioration and renewal. With multitudes of tiny pencil lines, the work portrays a sad beauty in the evolution of the suburbs and focuses the viewer's attention on some aspect of the city that is often overlooked.

Haikuhie Tataryan's graphically compelling work depicts elaborate narratives of realistically executed subjects, addressing a combination of current events, political issues, and the artist's personal concerns with them. Her technical use of dense cross-hatching in the imagery pushes the drawings toward the richness of an etching.

Christine Weir confronts her fear of flying in her mysterious-looking aerial view drawings of actual aqueduct and reservoir patterns with haphazard lines and branching networks. The seemingly abstract compositions become silhouettes in a nocturnal atmosphere of velvety graphite, balanced by perfectly shaped circular rings glowing in the background.

In sculptures and drawing-based installations, **Julia Westerbeke** creates otherworldly terrains in forms familiar yet curiously alien, toxic yet appealing. A closer observation of the individual forms reveals the finely detailed work, which pays homage to the intricacies and ceaseless regeneration of natural forms.

In the Project Room will be 'Pharmacia Poetica', an installation project by **Anna Homler with Helen Van der Neer and Elaine Parks**. The project explores the transformative power of imagination, demonstrating how the literal can become the lyrical, and in doing so, cure. The main feature is an apothecary-like "treatment room" stocked with a collection of glass bottles in which the hidden beauty of commonplace objects, suspended in liquid, is revealed. On January 29th, Homler will present a performative event offering a mixture of remedies including sounds, poetry, images and objects.

den contemporary art is located at #B261 in the 2nd floor of the Pacific Design Center Blue Building. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, from 11am to 5pm and by appointment. Gallery mailing address is P.O. Box 6602, Beverly Hills, CA 90212. **For more information and visual material, please contact:** Donna Enad Napper, Owner/Director at 323-422-6340 / info@dencontemporaryart.com. **For Members of Press:** Complimentary PDC parking is available by calling ahead at 310-360-6404.

---About the Artists

Jennifer Celio's work has been featured in solo exhibitions at Christinrose Gallery in New York; Creative Artists Agency in Beverly Hills; and romo gallery in Atlanta, Georgia. She has shown in group exhibitions throughout California at Long Beach Museum of Art, Laguna Art Museum, Marx & Zavattero, Louis Stern Fine Art, Sam Lee Gallery, among others. Her work has been reviewed in the Los Angeles Times, Art Papers, Whitehot magazine, and Artillery magazine. Celio graduated from California State University, Fullerton in 1996 with a BFA in Drawings and Paintings. In 2008 she was Shortlisted in the London International Creative Competition.

Haikuhie Tataryan graduated in 2008 with a BA from University of California, Los Angeles. Her work has been selected for various group exhibitions in Los Angeles by notable jurors such as Franklin Sirmans, Peter Frank, Diane Calder, Shana Nys Dambrot, and others. Other group exhibitions include the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles and Contemporary Arts Center in Las Vegas. Tataryan has received several awards and honors such as Honorable Mentions in the International Juried Competition by Fabrik Magazine; the Congressional Art Competition at the Office of Congresswoman Diane E. Watson; and the Silver Key in The Scholastic Art and Writing Award.

Christine Weir received her MS degree in Art History from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York in 1996, and her BFA in 1991 from Kutztown University in Pennsylvania. She has exhibited her work in various shows in the Los Angeles area including Brand Library Art Gallery and Mt. St. Mary's College, as well as nationally in Maryland, New Mexico, Texas, and Virginia. Weir is a former cataloguer and appraiser in the American Art Department at Bonhams and Butterfields Auctioneers, Los Angeles.

Julia Westerbeke is a Bay Area native and currently lives in New York City, where she teaches in Barnard College's Visual Arts Department at Columbia University. She received her BA from Columbia in 2003, and her MFA from University of California, San Diego in 2009. Her work has been included in recent exhibitions at the deYoung Museum, San Francisco and the Oceanside Museum of Art. Westerbeke is a former art critic for TimeOut magazine.

Anna Homler is a Los Angeles-based intermedia artist, whose career spans over 25 years encompassing music, spoken word, and installation. Collaborating with composers/musicians, visual artists, and writers, she has presented her projects in venues throughout the United States and Europe. Highlighting Homler's work is the performance/installation project 'Pharmacia Poetica', which has travelled worldwide since 1987. Her work has been reviewed in numerous publications such as the New York Times, Los Angeles Times, High Performance, and LA Weekly. She has participated in numerous international festivals in Canada, Italy, Belgium, Austria, Holland, Germany, France, and England.



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