



LCS ANGELES
CONTEMPORARY
EXHIBITIONS

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À Rebours Against Nature Against The Grain

12 June - 10 August 2008

As part of LACE's thirtieth anniversary celebration, Los Angeles-based artist Christopher Russell has curated *Against the Grain*. He looks back on a seminal exhibition from LACE's history, *Against Nature: A Group Show of Work by Homosexual Men* (1988), curated by Dennis Cooper and Richard Hawkins.

The original show was informed by J. K. Huysmans' novel *À Rebours*, which looked at decadent seclusion and syphilitic deterioration as modes of social rebellion. Cooper and Hawkins translated this work through the lens of AIDS in a politically and socially conservative era, displaying rich, decadent and inherently morbid work.

Using *Against Nature* as a point of departure, but not restaging the prior show, Russell selected 14 local artists that seek a similar critical position in our current social climate - Tom Allen, Brian Bress, Robert Fontenot, Wendell Gladstone, Matt Greene, Julian Hoeber, Brian Kennon, John Knuth, Amy Sarkisian, Ryan Taber, Ami Tallman, Kelly Sears, Anna Sew Hoy, and Cheyenne Weaver. These artists undertake themes of decadence within a present day context. In turn, the artists assert individual, idiosyncratic responses to themes of death, morbidity and overproduction which flow through Huysmans and come to define a contemporary Gothic aesthetic.

A full color catalog will be produced in conjunction with this exhibit.

Opening Reception 12 June 2008 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Summer Solstice Masked Ball 21 June 2008 9:00 pm to Midnight

For more events, go to welcometolace.org.

Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions
6522 Hollywood Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90028
t: 323.957.1777 ☛ Wed-Sun 12-6pm, Fri 12-9pm

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