



Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions
6522 Hollywood Blvd, Los Angeles CA 90028
www.welcometolace.org

PRESS RELEASE

LA25 Half-Life

October 8 – November 16, 2008

Opening reception: October 15, 6-8 p.m.

LACE is proud to present **LA25 Half-Life**, new work from 25 emerging Los Angeles artists selected for inclusion in an innovative project sponsored by the law firm of **Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP** to support the city's vibrant artists' community. The LACE exhibition will be curated by **Thomas Solomon** and feature work ranging from photography, sculpture, painting and drawing to mixed media.

The **LA25** artists, who were selected by a jury of art professionals, are **Marya Alford, Patterson Beckwith, Lindsay Brant, Cal Crawford, Marie Jager, Andres Janacua, Matthew Jordan, Vishal Jugdeo, Annie Lapin, Elad Lassry, Christopher Michlig, Yaniro Paramo, José Álvaro Perdices, Ephraim Puusemp, Marco Rios, Jeff Sheng, Natalie Shriver, John Sisley, Jim Skuldt, Carly Steward, Whitney Stolich, Lee Thompson, Greg Wilken, Rosha Yaghmai and Brenna Youngblood.**

LA25 was born out of a unique vision to support the area's arts community while also celebrating Skadden's 25 years in Los Angeles. Over the course of three years, **LA25** has presented the work of artists working in various media who, at the time of selection, had not had previous commercial gallery representation. The artists were selected from some of the most renowned art schools in the Los Angeles area: Art Center College of Design, CalArts, Claremont Graduate University, Otis College of Art and Design, UC Irvine, UCLA, UC Riverside and USC. **LA25** chief curator **Thomas Solomon** visited myriad studios to provide the jury with a pool of artists from which they selected the final group. **Ilene Kurtz-Kretzschmar** provided earlier assistance with the project.

Members of the jury included: **John Baldessari**, artist; **Kris Kuramitsu**, former Curator for the Collections of Peter Norton and Eileen Harris Norton and former Director of Arts Programs for the Peter Norton Family Foundation; **Weston Naef**, Curator of Photography at the J. Paul Getty Museum; **Cathy Opie**, artist; **Ann Philbin**, Director of the Hammer Museum; and **Paul Schimmel**, Chief Curator at MOCA.

"When thinking about how to celebrate Skadden's 25 years in Los Angeles, we wanted to make it a celebration of the community. Throughout the project, it has been our great delight to identify and support this talented group of emerging artists," said **Harold M. Williams**, of counsel at Skadden and President Emeritus of the J. Paul Getty Trust.

For more information about **LA25** and the artists, visit www.skadden.com/LA25.



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LACE is a nonprofit contemporary art center located in the heart of Hollywood. For three decades and counting, **LACE** has curated and produced art and events that inspire the public imagination and engage with timely issues that shape local and global life. Support for **LACE** and its programs comes from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, the City of Los Angeles, Department of Cultural Affairs, The Getty Foundation, The James Irvine Foundation, Jockey Hollow Foundation, Los Angeles County Arts Commission, Morris Family Foundation, The Pasadena Art Alliance, Stone Brewing Co., and the members of **LACE**. www.welcometolace.org

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ARTISTS' BIOGRAPHIES

Marya Alford

(Born 1979, Pascagoula, Mississippi)

Alford received a BFA from the Otis College of Art and Design, Los Angeles in 2003 and an MFA from the University of Southern California Roski School of Fine Arts in 2005. She has exhibited in Southern California for several years and has screened her film, *Bouvier and Prusakova*, at various festivals, including the Images Festival in Toronto. Currently, she is producing a permanent public artwork for a new park on the site of the Ambassador Hotel and Coconut Grove in Los Angeles. It is scheduled to open in December 2008.

Patterson Beckwith

(Born 1972, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania)

Beckwith received a BFA from The Cooper Union, New York, in 1994 and an MFA from the University of California, Los Angeles, in 2006. In the intervening years, his editorial photography appeared in such publications as *Artforum*, *Vice*, *Jane*, *Details*, *Index*, and *Domino*. He has organized "portrait studio" performance events at Photo New York and Photo San Francisco; the Hammer Museum at the University of California, Los Angeles; E.S.L. projects, Los Angeles; and at Greene Naftali Gallery and American Fine Arts, New York. From 1992-2000, he was a member of a collaborative art group, Art Club 2000, comprised of seven Cooper Union students, which exhibited in Mexico, Italy, Switzerland, France, Belgium, England, Scotland, and the United States. He has taught photography at the Otis College of Art and Design, New York University, Cooper Union, and is currently full-time faculty at The City College of New York of The City University of New York. His work is represented in Los Angeles by Mesler & Hug.

Lindsay Brant

(Born 1973, New York, New York)

Brant received a BA from Yale University, where in 1995 she was also awarded the Blair Dickinson Memorial Prize. She received her MFA from Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, California in 2004. Brant had two solo shows in New York in 2005 and 2006 at the now-closed Haswellediger & Co. Gallery. Her work has been in many group shows in Los Angeles, New York and Berlin. In 2006, she was featured in *Ridykeulous* at Participant in New York. The following year, Brant's work was featured in *Shared Women* at Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions.

Cal Crawford

(Born 1979, San Diego, California)

Crawford received a BFA from Concordia University, Montreal in 2004 and an MFA from Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, California in 2007. He was awarded a Jacob K. Javits Fellowship in 2004. Crawford has published several audio works and has performed in international sound festivals. Recently, he has exhibited video and sculpture works in several group exhibitions, including *Start*, curated by Christof Migone at the Leonard and Bina Ellen Art Gallery, Montreal; an exhibition juried by Jorge Pardo at Treehouse Gallery, Los Angeles; a three-artist exhibition at Richard Telles Fine Art gallery, Los Angeles; and performed a short video/pyrotechnic performance at the Outpost for Contemporary Art, Los Angeles. This summer Crawford participated in an all-night video and sound event produced by the Society for the Activation of Social Space through Art and Sound (SASSAS) at the historic carousel building on the Santa Monica Pier.

Marie Jager

(Born 1975, Copenhagen, Denmark)

Marie Jager received an MFA from the University of Southern California Roski School of Fine Arts in 2004. Her work has been presented in venues such as Artists Space and the Swiss Institute (NY), Elizabeth Dee Gallery (NY), China Art Objects Galleries (LA), the MAK Center (LA), Croy Nielsen (Berlin), Jeffrey Charles Gallery (London), among others. She was included in the 2006 California Biennial and organized a series of film screenings ("The A to Z of cinema with Gilles Deleuze") at the Mandrake in Los Angeles. Her work has been included in a DVD compilation "compiler 2" curated by Daniel Bauman and written about in *Artforum*, *Flashart*, *C Magazine* and *The New York Times*.

Andres Janacua

(Born 1982, Los Angeles, California)

Janacua received his BFA in 2004 from the University of Southern California and his MFA from Claremont Graduate University in 2007. He received the Walker & Parker Memorial Fellowship in 2007. He attended residency programs at the Galeria Perdida in Michoacán, Mexico in 2006 and The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston in 2007. He has exhibited at Shotgun Space in Los Angeles, Galeria Perdida in Mexico, and Berlin in 2007 and 2008. This fall he will be in residence at Project Row House in Houston, where he will also exhibit at Blaffer Gallery.

Matthew Jordan

(Born 1975, Portsmouth, Ohio)

Jordan received a BA in 2001 from Yale University, where he was the recipient of the Louis Sudler Prize for Excellence in the Arts, and an MFA in 2004 from the University of California, Los Angeles. He has received numerous accolades, including the Graduate Opportunity Fellowship in 2002 and the Louise Berman Fellowship in 2003. Since his MFA exhibition, he has been included in recent exhibitions at Western Project in Los Angeles and The Photography Institute in New York. Jordan's work has been acquired by private collectors on both coasts, and in 2006, he joined the photography faculty at Pasadena City College.

Vishal Jugdeo

(Born 1979, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada)

Jugdeo received a BFA from Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, British Columbia in 2003 and an MFA from the University of California, Los Angeles in 2007. He attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Skowhegan, Maine in 2005. Jugdeo has exhibited in Canada and the U.S., including solo exhibitions at the Western Front in Vancouver and LAXART in Los Angeles. Group exhibitions include *Read Me! Text in Art*, curated by Malik Gaines, at The Armory Center for the Arts, Pasadena, California and *Accidental Modernism*, curated by Christopher Eamon, at Leslie Tonkonow Artworks + Projects, New York.

Annie Lapin

(Born 1978, Washington, D.C.)

Lapin graduated *cum laude* from Yale University with a BA in 2001 and obtained an MFA from the University of California, Los Angeles in 2007. This year she has had solo exhibitions at Angles Gallery, where she is represented, and at Grand Arts in Kansas City, Missouri. She has previously exhibited in Los Angeles at Daniel Weinberg Gallery in 2007 and Taylor De Cordoba in 2006. She has received many awards and fellowships for excellence from the Art Institute of Chicago, UCLA and Yale University.

Elad Lassry

(Born 1977, Tel Aviv, Israel)

Lassry received a BFA in 2003 from CalArts, with dual majors in studio art and film, and received an MFA in studio art in 2007 from the University of Southern California Roski School of Fine Arts. His first solo exhibition was at Cherry and Martin in Los Angeles in 2007. His work is included in public collections such as the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and The Israel Museum. He is represented by David Kordansky Gallery, Los Angeles. In 2008 his films will be shown at the Art Institute of Chicago, and the California Biennial at the Orange County Museum of Art.

Christopher Michlig

(Born 1976, Girdwood, Alaska)

Michlig received an MFA from Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, California in 2007. His solo debut at Jail Gallery was reviewed in the May 2008 issue of *Artforum* by Jan Tumlir. His work has been featured at the Fellows of Contemporary Art in *Yellow*, curated by Lia Trinko-Browner, and in the 2006 L.A. Weekly Biennial, curated by Holly Myers and Tom Christie. Upcoming exhibitions include *Desertshore*, curated by Jan Tumlir at Luckman Gallery at California State University, Los Angeles.

Yaniro Paramo

(Born 1982, Joliet, Illinois)

Paramo obtained a BA from the University of St. Francis, Joliet, Illinois in 2004, with a double major in public relations/advertising visual arts and an MFA from CalArts, Los Angeles in 2007. His exhibitions have included *Lost Streams: The First Frontier Was The Waters Edge* at Estación Tijuana, Tijuana, Mexico in 2006 and *Departure*, a group show at the Steelworkers Building in Joliet, Illinois in 2004.

José Álvaro Perdices

(Born 1971, Madrid, Spain)

Perdices studied at Universidad Complutense, Madrid; California State University, Los Angeles; and received his MFA from the University of California, Los Angeles. His work has been exhibited in numerous international venues, including the Espacio Garcia, Madrid; Riga Triennial, Latvia; La Casa Encendida, Madrid; the Marcelino Botín Foundation, Santander, Spain; and the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco. He has developed works in photographic installation and film, turning images, actions and narratives into highly charged psychological performances that address cultural and personal visibility.

Ephraim Puusemp

(Born 1976, Salt Lake City, Utah)

Puusemp received a BA from The University of Utah in 1999 and an MFA from the University of California, Los Angeles in 2007. His work has been included in numerous group shows in California, including *Compass 2007: New Art from the University of California's MFA Programs* at the UCR Sweeney Gallery and the California Museum of Photography in Riverside, California. This summer his work was featured in *Time, Space and Alchemy* at Carl Berg Gallery in Los Angeles.

Marco Rios

(Born 1975, Los Angeles, California)

Rios received his BFA from Otis College of Art and Design in 1997 and his MFA at the University of California, Irvine in 2006, where he was the winner of the Chancellor's Fellowship. His work has recently been exhibited at Artists Space, NY; *Phantom Sightings*, a group exhibition at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; and a two-person exhibit at Simon Preston Gallery, New York. Upcoming exhibitions include the 2008 California Biennial at the Orange County Museum of Art and a group exhibition at Harris Lieberman Gallery, New York. In 2007, he received the California Community Foundation Fellowship and he was recently selected as a recipient of a Visions from the New California Award, given by the James Irvine Foundation.

Jeff Sheng

(Born 1980, Santa Barbara, California)

Sheng received a BA in visual and environmental studies with an emphasis on filmmaking and photography from Harvard College, graduating *magna cum laude*, and received an MFA with an emphasis in Asian American Studies at the University of California, Irvine. His photographs have been published in *The New York Times Magazine* and have appeared in group exhibitions in Los Angeles, New York, Boston, and Arles, France. His activist-inspired project, *Fearless*, about openly gay, lesbian, and bisexual athletes on high school and college sports teams in the United States has been seen at over 25 college campuses across the country. In August, Sheng was in Beijing photographing at the Olympics for a project in conjunction with Amnesty International. He lives in Los Angeles and teaches in the Art Studio and Asian American Studies departments at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Natalie Shriver

(Born 1979, Baltimore, Maryland)

Shriver received a BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2001 and an MFA from the University of Southern California Roski School of Fine Arts in 2004. She has exhibited in Chicago at Gallery 312 and The Bodybuilder & Sportsman Gallery, and in Los Angeles at the Anna Helwing Gallery in 2004. She is currently working on a new photography project and a situation comedy entitled *Deadbeat Dad*.

John Sisley

(Born 1975, Sacramento, California)

Sisley received a BA from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1998, where he studied art and English literature, and an MFA from the University of California, Riverside in 2007. Recent group exhibitions include: *Is that all there is to fire?* at High Energy Constructs, Los Angeles (2007); *Compass 2007: New Art from the University of California's MFA Programs* at the UCR Sweeney Art Gallery and California Museum of Photography in Riverside, California (2007); and *Southern Exposure* at New Wight Gallery, University of California, Los Angeles (2005).

Jim Skuldt

(Born 1970, Minnesota, USA)

Skuldt received his MFA from CalArts in 2005. He attended the Triangle France residency (Marseille) in 2006 and was awarded the California Community Foundation Emerging Artists Fellowship and the Durfee Foundation ARC Grant the following year. His work has appeared in venues including Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions (LA), the Museum of Contemporary Art (LA), Art in General (NY), the Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts (NY), the High Desert Test Sites, and Friche la Belle de Mai (Marseille). Skuldt lives and works in a former meat-packing plant in Los Angeles, a site in the 2008 California Biennial.

Carly Steward

(Born 1979, Redlands, California)

Steward received a BFA from Otis College of Art and Design, Los Angeles in 2003 and an MFA from CalArts, Los Angeles in 2007. She has exhibited in many group shows including: *Interactions: Armory Artists and Their Art* at The Armory Center for the Arts this year in Pasadena; *De Pasada Por Los Angeles* at Atelier als Supermedium in The Hague, the Netherlands; *Photo Femmes* at Caren Golden Fine Art in 2006 in New York; *Speakeasy* at Upspace, L.A. Design Center in 2005; *Disquieted* at 4-F Gallery in Los Angeles in 2004; and, *Always Already Passe*, curated by Chivas Clem at Gavin Brown's Enterprise in New York in 2004.

Whitney Stolich

(Born 1975, Monterey, California)

Stolich obtained a BA in urban planning from Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles in 1997 and an MFA from Otis College of Art and Design, Los Angeles in 2004. Stolich's work reflects her intense interest in urbanism through a conceptual approach. Her current body of work, *Third Space*, is built around 16 twin cities situated on the U.S./Mexico border and their independent cultures, which the artist believes are fusing together because of their proximity and similar urban cultures.

Lee Thompson

(Born 1980, Oil City, Pennsylvania)

Thompson received a BFA in fine art photography in 2003 from the Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, New York and an MFA in 2008 from the University of California, Riverside, where he has taught photography and digital art. He has also taught at the Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Arts in Erie, Pennsylvania. Thompson's photographs have been exhibited in Columbus, Ohio; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and Los Angeles. His work was most recently shown at the UCR Sweeney Art Gallery in Riverside, California. He has also exhibited at the New Wight Gallery at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Greg Wilken

(Born 1980, Los Angeles, California)

Wilken received his BFA from the Otis College of Art and Design, Los Angeles in 2004 and an MFA from the University of Southern California Roski School of Fine Arts in 2006. He received USC's Kathleen Neely Macomber Travel Award in 2005. He has shown work in numerous group shows in Los Angeles. Currently, he is at work on a large film and drawing installation based on the allegorization of the history of television transmission technology in Los Angeles.

Rosha Yaghmai

(Born 1978, Los Angeles, California)

After studying at the School of Visual Arts, New York, Yaghmai received both her BFA (2001) and her MFA (2007) degrees from CalArts, Los Angeles. During this time she also ran the exhibition space 507Rose in Venice, California. She has exhibited widely in Southern California, including at the Riverside Art Museum, Eveningside Dr., Kontainer, and Steve Turner Contemporary. Abroad, Yaghmai has been included in exhibitions at Transmission in the United Kingdom and GBK in Sydney, Australia. Her work will be shown with Slab projects as well as at Estación Tijuana, Tijuana, Mexico later this year.

Brenna Youngblood

(Born 1979, Riverside, California)

Youngblood received a BFA from California State University, Long Beach in 2002 and an MFA from the University of California, Los Angeles in 2006. Her work has been the subject of exhibitions at Margo Leavin Gallery, Los Angeles; Susanne Vielmetter Los Angeles Projects; and the Hammer Museum, UCLA. Youngblood has also participated in exhibitions at Steve Turner Contemporary, Los Angeles; the Queen's Nails Annex, San Francisco; and Black Dragon Society, Los Angeles. She will be included in the 2008 California Biennial at the Orange County Museum of Art.



What the Critics Are Saying About LA25 Artists

LA25 artists may be at the start of their careers but many are already gaining notoriety and recognition among art critics who have been following their work at recent exhibitions throughout Los Angeles and beyond. Here is just a sample of what critics from major publications have been saying lately about some of the LA25 artists and their work.

The "work pushes against the limits of this system, and often also breaks through."
- *Artforum*

"The artist achieved a dynamic, immersive effect that ultimately subsumed the gallery and everything in it."
- *Artforum*

The "paintings aren't easily read, but they are slowly, cumulatively felt. They have tremendous tactile energy of ideas and forms being worked out on the surface."
- *Los Angeles Times*

The artist's "hybrid style of filmmaking exists somewhere between a soap opera, an absurdist theatre production, an installation of relational aesthetics and a reflection of sculpture."
- *Art Review*

The artist "lays down paint with gymnastic range – aggressively in places, lyrically in others, but with a convincing sense of sense of urgency throughout."
- *Los Angeles Times*

The logo features the letters 'LA' in a bold, black, sans-serif font, positioned in front of a large, light gray, semi-transparent '25' that serves as a background.

Celebrating 25 Years in Los Angeles

Since the opening of Skadden's Los Angeles office in 1983, we have been proud to be a part of the philanthropic and civic life of greater Los Angeles through our participation in legal aid, educational, artistic and public service organizations. As we celebrate our 25th anniversary in Los Angeles, we want to show our appreciation to this great city and the arts community it supports.

We created LA25 to showcase the talents of some of the young artists whose work will enhance the richness of the city's cultural life. The vibrant contemporary art scene in the greater Los Angeles area is renowned both nationally and internationally. It includes a number of leading museums and art centers, as well as art education institutions with world-class faculties. These institutions attract the most promising students and, as a result, produce outstanding graduates. For many of them, this is a turning point in their artistic lives. As we developed the concept for LA25, our mission was to enhance the visibility and nourish the careers of some of these young artists and thus make a contribution to the creative life of this city.

We are excited about LA25 as a way to celebrate the vitality of the Los Angeles area and 25 years of Skadden as a part of it.

For more information, go to www.skadden.com/LA25

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ABOUT LACE

LACE (Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions) is an internationally recognized nonprofit visual art center currently under the leadership of Executive Director Carol Stakenas. LACE fosters artists who innovate, experiment, explore, and risk. LACE programs—exhibitions, performances, screenings, dialogs and other public forums—strive to inspire the public imagination and to expand interactions between art and audience. We reach beyond our four walls to provide opportunities for diverse publics to engage deeply with contemporary art. In doing so, LACE cultivates dialogue and participation between and among artists and those publics.

A Brief History

Founded in 1978 by a group of thirteen artists and steeped in principles of grassroots community organizing and social change, LACE was committed from the start to presenting experimental works of art in all media. LACE was a pioneer in the fledgling art practices of performance, installation, and video art, providing a venue for experimentation for artists like Laurie Anderson, John Baldessari, Chris Burden, Gronk, Ishmael Houston-Jones, Mike Kelley, Martin Kersels, Paul McCarthy, Linda Nishio, Paper Tiger TV, Adrian Piper, Johanna Went, David Wojnarowicz, and Bruce and Norman Yonemoto. The recent presence of performance art and video in major museums suggest that these experimental media are now part of the canon and testifies to the successful efforts of LACE to promote these media to a wider audience.

This year marks LACE's 30th anniversary as a laboratory for artistic research and creative expression. Since its inception, LACE has presented the work of over 5,000 artists in nearly 3,000 exhibitions, screenings, performances, and works of public art and has played a key role in establishing Los Angeles as an important international center for the arts.

Originally located in downtown Los Angeles, LACE moved onto the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 1994. LACE has since become an active agent in the economic and cultural redevelopment of Hollywood. LACE also partners with organizations from other parts of the city, the country, and beyond including the Getty Research Insititute, Fellows of Contemporary Art, CalArts, California College of Art, Creative Time, LA Forum for Architecture and Design, MOCA Los Angeles, Harvard University, the Silver Lake Film Festival, Nike and Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver, BC.

Carol Stakenas joined LACE in 2005. She arrived from New York where she spent close to a decade as the Deputy Director and Curator of Creative Time, the innovative public arts presenter based in New York City. She has worked with a broad range of international artists, and has produced art at remarkable sites such as the Brooklyn Bridge, Times Square and Grand Central Terminal.