



CONTEMPORARY IMAGES IN PRINT SINCE 1915

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Pulling from History: The Old Masters

**Jennifer Bornstein, Ernesto Caivano, David Fertig, Sarah McEneaney,
Norm Paris, Andrew Raftery, Kiki Smith and Anton Würth**

February 26 – May 14, 2009

Thursday, February 26

Gallery Talk by John Caperton, Curator: 5:30pm; Opening Reception: 5:30-7:30pm

PHILADELPHIA: The Print Center presents ***Pulling from History: The Old Masters***, a group exhibition bringing together the work of eight contemporary artists whose work has been influenced by old master prints. When asked to describe her interest in printmaking, artist **Jennifer Bornstein** explained that intaglio “isn’t exactly a cutting-edge process of image-making. It’s a technology that’s in a time warp, practically unchanged over 500 years. It seemed to have been abandoned by contemporary art. Because of this, I had the impression that I could reinvent it. I could occupy myself less with traditional concerns, and more with hijacking this traditional medium to address my own concerns.” This is the first in a series of exhibitions exploring the ways that contemporary artists are “hijacking” the history of the printed image to create new work.

The works included in *Pulling from History: The Old Masters* show a variety of responses to the traditional printmaking processes of etching and engraving and also to the imagery of old master prints. In this exhibition we see carefully controlled engraved lines depicting the interior of a home staged for an open house (**Andrew Raftery**, Providence, RI) and intricate studies of stands used to display jewelry (**Anton Würth**, Offenbach, Germany). Other works include portraits of friends (**Jennifer Bornstein**, Los Angeles, CA), animals (**Kiki Smith**, New York, NY) and bathing nudes (**Sarah McEneaney**, Philadelphia, PA). Some artists have borrowed from historical sources for their imagery, including a suite of etchings of a dead knight (**Ernesto Caivano**, New York, NY), scenes from Goya’s *Disasters of War* (**Norm Paris**, Providence, RI) and battles scenes from the War of 1812 (**David Fertig**, Pemberton, NJ).

Pulling from History: The Old Masters will be on view at The Print Center from February 26 to May 16, 2009. On Thursday, February 26 there will be gallery talk by John Caperton, Curator of Prints and Photographs, The Print Center at 5:30pm and an opening reception from 5:30-7:30pm. Join us for a special discussion, **Three Views of the Old Masters**, on Wednesday, April 8, 6:00pm, with artists Jennifer Bornstein, Norm Paris and Andrew Raftery, who will be joined by Shelley Langdale, Associate Curator, Philadelphia Museum of Art, and Nadine Orenstein, Curator, Metropolitan Museum of Art. Free and open to the public.

Pulling from History: The Old Masters is supported by



The Print Center supports printmaking and photography as vital contemporary arts and encourages the appreciation of the printed image in all its forms. The Print Center presents a variety of programs for the public including exhibitions; The Print Center Gallery Store, which offers the largest and most diverse selection of contemporary prints in Philadelphia; the longest running annual international competition for prints and photographs in the country; and an extensive series of education programs and special events.

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