Sweeney Art Gallery New Location & Grand Opening, October 7, 2010, presenting

BIKE CULTURE IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

RIVERSIDE, Calif. – Exploring the effects of bicycles on art and culture, Re:Cycle—Bike Culture in Southern California includes twenty-eight artists and collectives that use the bicycle as both a metaphor and a realization for restructuring the urban environment. In the past few years, bicycle activists, advocates, and aficionados have proven to be vociferous in their desire for reimagining city landscapes in the U.S., such as Los Angeles, that have been built around the automobile as the primary mode of transportation. However, contrary to this view, significant “bike cultures” have developed throughout the Southern California region in the past few years. It is a reflection of a shifting value system that looks towards alternate means of transportation, the promotion of healthy lifestyles, and a cultural shift from consumption to sustainability.

The exhibition inaugurates University of California, Riverside’s Sweeney Art Gallery’s new space in UCR’s Barbara and Art Culver Center of the Arts, both of which open to the public with a gala weekend, October 7-9, 2010. The exhibition will be presented in both the Sweeney Art Gallery and the Culver’s Atrium Gallery, encompassing 4,000-square-feet. The roster of artists represent a range from recent graduates to those in mid-career, and have been selected from Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Diego counties. The works are mostly sculptural in nature as they incorporate actual bicycles, but the exhibition also includes drawing, photography, public actions, and video.

The exhibition coincides with Riverside’s inaugural 2010 Riverside Citrus Classic Bike Run on October 17, and other city initiatives to generate a regional bike culture. Printed brochure and online catalog available. See website for related events and films. Organized by UCR Sweeney Art Gallery, and curated by Tyler Stallings, Artistic Director, Culver Center of the Arts & Director, Sweeney Art Gallery.

- Exhibition Dates: October 7-December 31, 2010, Free admission
- Reception date: Thursday, October 7, 6-10 PM, First Thursday ArtsWalk & first day of gala weekend opening for Sweeney Art Gallery & Culver Center of the Arts
Artists in the Exhibition

Lisa Anne Auerbach
    Tad Beck
Nathan Bockelman & Cameron Crone
Damon Boyd/Nomad Cruiser
    Leslie Caldera
    John Divola
    Sean Duffy
East Hollywood ArtCycle
    Timo Fahler
    Finishing School
    Clement Hanami
    Gabriel Hargrove
    Simon Hughes
Folke Köbberling & Martin Kaltwasser
    Diane Meyer
    Midnight Ridazz
    Patrick Miller
Rubén Ortiz Torres
    Ashira Siegel
    Samuel Starr
    C.R. Stecyk
Taco Tuesdays
    Jud Turner
Dan “El Daino” Torres
    Lee Tusman
UCR Bourns College of Engineering, Human Powered Vehicle
    Ali Valle
    Raphael Xavier
Selected works in the exhibition

When Lisa Anne Auerbach began biking around Los Angeles to curb her gasoline use in the weeks leading up to the start of the Iraq War, a lot of people had questions about how it could be possible that the city of L.A. could be navigated by bike. In response, she began a small photocopied zine called Saddlesore that detailed her adventures cycling in the city. A few years later, considering how she might communicate to drivers while on the bike, Auerbach began knitting sweaters to wear, making her body into a kind of bumper sticker. The sweaters dealt with global, personal, and political ideas that were meant to provoke, exclaim, document, and communicate.

Tad Beck’s Bipod is a merging of the artist’s bicycle and video camera. Both instruments have dual spinning components and thus function as parodies of one another. Three individual models were shot on three notorious Southern California climbs: East Fork, Upper Rock Creek and Crystal Lake, while the artist cycled behind the riders, attempting to keep up. The multi-layered and rhythmic editing creates a transformative and hypnotic merging of the original performances. Beck’s photographs are concurrently on view at Los Angeles County Museum of Art in conjunction with the Thomas Eakins exhibition.

Finishing School’s Little Pharma Drug Run. Using materials provided by the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, participants first met to construct costumes modeled on their drug of choice. Finishing School, an artist collaborative, then led a costumed bike tour exploring various drug distribution sites of downtown Los Angeles. Finishing School is an interdisciplinary artist collective that explores contemporary social, political, and environmental issues. Their projects conflate praxis, play, and activism and seek to engage audiences through various participatory models. Finishing School was established in 2001 and is based in Los Angeles.

Folke Köbberling & Martin Kaltwasser, Cars into Bicycles. A Saab turbo was converted into two functional bicycles. Their work explores mapping, sustainability, reconfiguring urban space. Since 1998, the two artists have been implementing their concept of an artistic and architectural aesthetic of resistance to consumer ideology. They use streets, squares, bridges, parks and interior spaces as their areas of operation. The artists live and work in Los Angeles and Berlin. They have exhibited extensively in Germany and internationally and were most recently included in the 2009 Architecture Biennial in Sao Paulo and Martha Museum, Herford (Germany),
Diane Meyer's *Without a Car in the World* consists of photographs and text from interviews with one hundred Los Angeles residents living without a car. Through the images and text from the interviews, the project addresses how car culture has shaped psychological, spatial and geographic perceptions of the city. The diverse range of subjects living in all parts of Los Angeles had given up their cars for a variety of reasons ranging from ideological, financial or health-related situations, anxiety after traumatic car accidents, environmental activism, or a simple disinterest in car culture. The excerpted images in the exhibition deal specifically with issues related to cycling in Los Angeles.

Patrick Miller's *Bicycle Bell Ensemble* is an open collective of bicycling artists, performers, and musicians who join with community members in creating rolling musical bicycle parades, as well as stationary experimental music performances. Mobile Music Workshop & Performance will be lead by members of Bicycle Bell ensemble and will engage community members in experimental music making strategies including compositions and improvisations. The group will then perform for drivers and pedestrians in Riverside, concluding with a performance at Sweeney Art Gallery.

Samuel Starr's *Circulus*, a miniaturized bicycle track, was originally installed in the decommissioned Seeley G. Mudd Science Library of Pomona College. The project effectively transformed the library into a *velodrome*, juxtaposing the movement and noise of the bicycle and rider with a silent reverence implicit in the library. One or two cyclists circulated the room every five seconds, inviting the static viewer to experience architectural space through the spectacle of cyclists’ angular movement while illuminating the relationship between centrifugal and gravitational elements, between speed, intensity and dimensional perspective.

Dan "El Daino" Torres' *Cycleology* is a performance and installation that employs an unconventional way of art making—drawing while riding a bicycle. This Riverside-based artist views the work as a self-portrait that comments on his art making process, on biking as his only means of transportation, and on class issues. He has made a series of drawings while riding around the city of Riverside, along the Santa Ana River trail from Riverside to Huntington Beach, and many other routes.
Sweeney Art Gallery’s New Location

Sweeney will unveil its new gallery location to the public in the new UCR Culver Center of the Arts during a gala event October 7-9, 2010. The gallery and staff moved at the end of April from their past location, just two doors down on the Main Street pedestrian mall, into the new, three-story Culver Center, housed in the renovated, 19th Century Rouse Department Store located next to the UCR/California Museum of Photography. In the Culver Center, Sweeney’s programming will expand by presenting exhibitions in its own gallery and in the heart of the Culver’s two-story, 2,000-sq. ft. atrium.

UCR Sweeney Art Gallery first opened on campus in 1963. Located at Olmstead Hall, its first exhibition examined the work of the 19th-century American landscape painter Thomas Moran, and was reviewed in the New York Times. In 1978, the gallery moved on campus to the Watkins house where it had many exhibits. Notable ones include the groundbreaking Bas Jan Ader Retrospective (1999) and Past Modern: The Singh Twins (2003).

In 2006, UCR Sweeney Art Gallery moved to a new location in downtown Riverside at 3800 Main Street. While there, it presented many solo and group exhibitions that have contributed scholarship to the field, have received international attention, and have made a conscious effort to be a bridge between the campus and community. Some of the highlights include Gabriela León: Sunday Walk to the Zocalo of Oaxaca (2007), The Signs Pile Up: Paintings by Pedro Álvarez (2008), Absurd Recreation: Contemporary Art from China (2008), Your Donations Do Our Work: Andrea Bowers and Suzanne Lacy (2009), Uncovered: A Pageant of Hip Hop Masters (2009), Intelligent Design: Interspecies Art (2009), and Mapping the Desert/Deserting the Map: An Interdisciplinary Response (2010). When it reopens in October within the Barbara and Art Culver Center of the Arts, the gallery will continue with its adventuresome programming and engagement with the community, beginning with Re:Cycle—Bike Culture in Southern California.

Concurrent Exhibition in Culver Center of the Arts Atrium Gallery

Vehicles of Imagination: A Selection of Pedal Cars from the David Whitmire Hearst Jr. Foundation Collection

October 7-December 31, 2010

Reception date: Thursday, October 7, 6-10 PM, First Thursday ArtsWalk & first day of gala weekend opening for Sweeney Art Gallery & Culver Center of the Arts

As the automobile industry gained speed, so did toys that reflected the public’s fascination with these new icons of the industrial age at the turn of the twentieth century. Vehicles of Imagination exhibits many of the varieties of pedal cars that were popular children’s toys from the 1890s through the 1970s. Like bicycles, pedal cars were operated by human power, giving children a feeling of power and importance and providing the make-believe that they were operating a real car. Some featured headlights, horns and custom paint jobs, but the pedal car’s most important quality was as a vehicle for imaginative play and fantasy. Most were replicas of automobiles, but that soon expanded to include planes, trains, and all modes of internal combustion transportation. The pedal cars in this exhibition,
which have been selected from the David Whitmire Hearst Jr. Foundation Collection, are especially
elegant examples that both spark the imagination as toys and delight the eye as carefully detailed
works of art. These pedal cars are installed in the Atrium of the Culver Center as a unique, site-specific
intervention that hangs down from the skylight, heightening the viewer’s experience of the magnificent
architectural setting and emphasizing the transformative nature of ordinary playthings into vehicles of
imagination. Vehicles of Imagination is curated by Jonathan Green, UCR ARTSblock Executive
Director, and Tyler Stallings, Artistic Director Culver Center of the Arts & Director Sweeney Art Gallery.

Concurrent with Re:Cycle and Vehicles of Imagination is UCR/California Museum of Photography’s two

Gala Opening Celebration for The Barbara & Art Culver Center of the Arts

UC Riverside’s Barbara and Art Culver Center of the Arts will open with a gala fund-raising reception
and public events Oct. 7-9 in downtown Riverside. The gala reception on Saturday, Oct. 9, will feature
special entertainment and food from 6 to 9 p.m. Tickets are $150 per person. The downloadable order
form is available online at http://www.culvercenter.ucr.edu.

Housed in the magnificent 19th century Rouse Building, a former department store, the long-anticipated
Center joins the UCR/California Museum of Photography in the ARTSblock, part of UC Riverside’s
continuing effort to provide a meeting point for arts at the university and in the community. The Center,
located at 3834 Main St., will be the new home of the Sweeney Art Gallery and will provide space for
public performances and film screenings as well as dance and digital studios for faculty, students, and
community members.

Two days of public events will kick off the grand opening celebration with performances by Riverside
community arts groups on Thursday, Oct. 7, and a day of films on Friday, Oct. 8, featuring student,
Hollywood, and foreign films. Events both days will be free. Schedules will be announced later.

Renovation of the two-story, 44,000-square-foot Rouse Building cost $18 million and was funded
through a combination of private and public money. Among the Center’s features are: first floor – an 80-
seat film and video screening room, atrium gallery for installation, music and performance, and the
Sweeney Art Gallery; second floor – the Culver Arts Research Lab for university-based projects that
advance artistic, cultural and performative research; and basement – facilities devoted to exhibition and
performance support and collections including seismically stable facilities to store the world-renown
Keystone-Mast collection of stereoscopic glass negatives.

The Culver Center will become a major architectural feature of Riverside’s downtown Historic Arts
district. This area includes a number of architectural gems of the late 19th century and early 20th
century including the Mission Inn (1902); Julia Morgan’s Riverside YWCA (1929) which now houses the
Riverside Art Museum; the Fox Theater (1929), which was the home of the premier of Gone with the
Wind and is now newly renovated into a 1,600-seat performing arts center for Broadway-style shows;
the Municipal Auditorium (1927) which was the city’s First World War Soldiers’ Memorial Building and
continues in use to this day; the art deco Kress Dime Store (c. 1925) renovated by architect Stanley
Saitowitz in 1986 into the UCR/California Museum of Photography.
When the two, side-by-side buildings that house UCR/California Museum of Photography and Culver Center of the Arts, which includes Sweeney Art Gallery, are considered collectively, and sometimes referred to as UCR ARTSblock, they constitute the third largest arts organization in the UC system after Berkeley Art Museum and UCLA’s Hammer Museum. Additionally, in all of California’s 10-campus University of California system, 23-campus California State University system, and the community college systems, they represent together one of less than a handful of museums and university galleries that are located off-campus, which places them in unique positions to be bridges between campus and community.

Contact Information

Sweeney Art Gallery reopens to the public on October 7, 2010, resuming its schedule of Tuesday-Saturday, 12-5 PM, and First Thursdays ArtsWalk, 12-9 PM. Free admission.

Sweeney Art Gallery @ Culver Center of the Arts, 3834 Main Street, Riverside, California 92501. For information, call 951-827-3755, http://sweeney.ucr.edu.

Press contact for Re:Cycle: Tyler Stallings, tyler.stallings@ucr.edu, (951) 827-1463.

UCR ARTSblock is a consortium of three venues:

ARTSblock, http://artsblock.ucr.edu

Sweeney Art Gallery, http://sweeney.ucr.edu


The Barbara and Art Culver Center of the Arts, http://culvercenter.ucr.edu

UCR ARTSblock Directors:

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Support for Re:Cycle--Bike Culture in Southern California comes from JensonUSA, UCR’s College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, and The Riverside Marriott. Support for public programming has been provided by the City of Riverside.
Barbara and Art Culver Center of the Arts, downtown Riverside pedestrian mall, housing Sweeney Art Gallery.

40-ft. tall atrium, 80-seat screening room, and café on ground floor. Top floor is research lab for UCR faculty, students, and visiting artists. Basement is for ARTSblock permanent collection and support.

Sweeney Art Gallery interior, entrance from atrium on ground floor of Culver Center of the Arts.