



INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MARCH 26, 2007



Photo by Richard Meyer

**NEWS RELEASE:**

***CONTEMPORARY ART AND  
THE ART OF CURATING***

***A YEAR-LONG UNDERGRADUATE SEMINAR TO  
CULMINATE WITH EXHIBITION IN APRIL 2007***

**APRIL 20–AUGUST 5, 2007**

EXHIBITION WALKTHROUGH WITH ARTIST KEN GONZALES-DAY AND STUDENT CURATORS  
KRISTEN BENEDEUCE AND MORGAN GREENHOUSE  
THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 5–6PM, ICA MEMBERS ONLY  
OPENING RECEPTION: THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 6–8PM

**PHILADELPHIA, PA**

The Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA), in conjunction with the Department of History of Art at the University of Pennsylvania, is pleased to announce the upcoming exhibition “Crimes of Omission.” Curated by ten undergraduate students enrolled in a year-long course, the RBSL Bergman Foundation Curatorial Seminar: “Contemporary Art and the Art of Curating,” the exhibition will be on view in ICA’s Project Space from April 20–August 5, 2007.

A “crime of omission” is defined as a failure to act upon a legal duty or responsibility. For the purposes of this exhibition, the title refers to artistic strategies that remove visual traces of a crime or draw attention to injustices that typically go unnoticed. The show will include artists working in a variety of media, including a mural by Ken Gonzales-Day, a light loop painting by Donald Moffett and conceptual knitting by Freddie Robins.

The show is a result of students’ firsthand exposure to the contemporary art world and the complex relationships within it. Through personal interaction with curators, critics, museum directors, artists, and private collectors, students come to understand the challenges and creative possibilities of the curatorial process.

Richard Meyer, Sachs Visiting Professor, leads the class with Liliana Milkova, Ph.D. candidate in Art History, and Naomi Beckwith, Whitney Lauder Curatorial Fellow. “What has been most exciting about this class is the fresh perspective and open-mindedness the students bring to contemporary art and curating. As a teacher, it has been enormously gratifying to see the class’ commitment to making their exhibition- and contemporary art in general- meaningful to a wider audience,” says Professor Meyer. The class works in collaboration with various ICA staff members including Director, Claudia Gould, and Curator of Education, Johanna Plummer. The University funded course takes place every two years and accepts students through an interview process.

Throughout the year the students visit various museums, galleries and private collections around the country, including trips to New York City, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and the surrounding areas. With a selective eye, students decide upon which pieces will ultimately be included in the exhibition. Student curator Morgan Greenhouse (C’07) says of her experience, “This seminar

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\*Images available upon request

## GENERAL INFORMATION

ICA is located at:

118 South 36th Street at the University of Pennsylvania.

ICA is open to the public, except during installation, from 12:00pm to 8:00pm on Wednesday through Friday and from 11:00am to 5:00pm on Saturday and Sunday.

Admission is \$6 for adults; \$3 for students over 12, artists, and senior citizens; and free to ICA members, children 12 and under, PENN card holders, and on Sundays from 11:00am to 1:00pm.

For more information, call 215-898-7108/5911, or visit [www.icaphila.org](http://www.icaphila.org).

## INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART

Founded in 1963, the Institute of Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania is a leader in the presentation and documentation of contemporary art. Through exhibitions, commissions, educational programs, and publications, ICA invites the public to share in the experience, interpretation and understanding of the work of established and emerging artists.

provided us with unparalleled out-of-classroom experiences. From visiting homes of prominent private collectors to unique explorations of alternative art spaces, we were given incredible exposure to the contemporary art world.”

In the spring semester, students intern in the curatorial, marketing, development, registrar, installation, and education departments under the guidance of ICA staff members. Because of the transient nature of contemporary art, students rely on experiential learning supplemented by careful analysis of scholarly literature on the subject. This class is the only undergraduate class of its kind in the country, providing students with the opportunity to curate their own show at an institution as esteemed as ICA.

This exhibition is curated by students: Loren Appin (C'07), Kristen Beneduce (I'08), Julia Berenson (C'07), Brittini Busch (C'07), Morgan Greenhouse (C'07), Alexandra Lenobel (C'07), Jenna Moss (C'07), Alexandra Nemerov (C'07), Vincent Szwajkowski (C'07) and Alex Tryon (C'08). The course is taught by Richard Meyer, Katherine Stein Sachs (CW'69) and Keith L. Sachs (W'76) Visiting Professor, Liliana Milkova, Ph.D. candidate in Art History, and Naomi Beckwith, Whitney Lauder Curatorial Fellow.

This exhibition is accompanied by a brochure publication.

ICA acknowledges primary funding for this project and exhibition from the Dolfinger-McMahon Foundation. Additional support for the exhibition has been provided by the RBSL Bergman Foundation, The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, The Dietrich Foundation Inc., the Overseers Board for the Institute of Contemporary Art, friends and members of ICA, and the University of Pennsylvania. ICA is also grateful for in-kind support from Loews Philadelphia Hotel. (Information complete as of 3-8-07.)

The Department of the History of Art at the University of Pennsylvania gratefully acknowledges generous support from the RBSL Bergman Foundation to fund the curatorial seminar.

All programs subject to change. Please visit the ICA website, [www.icaphila.org](http://www.icaphila.org), for more information on programs in conjunction with “Crimes of Omission.”