

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

moniquemeloche is pleased to announce the group exhibition



wood

featuring work by
Robert Davis / Michael Langlois
Dan Gunn
Jason Middlebrook
Joel Ross

May 19 – July 28, 2012

Opening reception this Saturday, May 19th, 4-7pm

Each of the moniquemeloche gallery artists in this exhibition incorporates wood into their respective practices, manipulating the same raw material in various ways with different end goals. We ask ourselves why, at this time, are all these artists considering this once-living material?

Working both with and against the natural grain and knots in internal slices of Cury Maple, Redwood, English Elm, and Cairo Walnut trees, **Jason Middlebrook** (American, born 1966, lives Hudson, NY) laboriously paints abstract patterns and designs on his leaning plank paintings. This material, along with Middlebrook's continued investigation of man's intersection with nature, reference the passage of time and growing cycles as much as McCracken and minimalist art practice.

The work of **Robert Davis/Michael Langlois** (American, born 1970/1974, live New York/Chicago) is often inspired by the visual language of the music world. In their newest body of work (the most sculptural to date), their richly stained wood constructions pay homage to the abstract linear designs on Eddy Van Halen's guitars. These perforated screens, which hang on the wall or stand dividing a room, often incorporate the artists' photo-realistic paintings of spray painted symbols.

Whether working with a table saw, teaching himself to chair-chain, or sourcing wooden panels from the local hardware store, the self-described painter **Dan Gunn** (American, born 1980, lives Chicago) builds malleable surfaces that use transparency and opacity to create balance and tension. His wall-based and free-standing works, comprised of materials like Plexiglas, glitter, paint and fabric in addition to wood, suggest different functional, aesthetic and cultural relationships between constituent parts that often evoke set-design or commercial display.

The majority of **Joel Ross'** (American, born 1966, lives Urbana, IL) recent sculptural work has taken the form of roadside signage that the artist constructs in most part of wood, secretly installs, and abandons at locations ranging from single-lane gravel farm roads to major highways on the outskirts of suburban Illinois. His luscious, but documentary-style photographs of these installations become the only record of his signs which tend to mysteriously disappear quickly from these desolate locales. Here we get a special exhibition of his sign constructions, sculptures onto themselves, slated to be installed.

Further CV information available on the website.

moniquemeloche

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Currently operating out of studios in Chicago and New York, **Robert Davis and Michael Langlois** (American, born 1970/1974, live New York/Chicago) have been working collaboratively since meeting at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 1997. They have exhibited internationally with solo exhibitions in Chicago, Miami, Los Angeles, Seattle, Berlin, and Naples Italy. Recently their work has been included in exhibitions at Untitled NY, the Warhol Museum Pittsburgh, APEX Art NY, and DePaul Art Museum Chicago. Davis and Langlois are two-time recipients of Artadia grants.

Prior to earning his MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2007, **Dan Gunn** (American, born 1980, lives Chicago) received a Bachelor's degree in Physics. His work has been reviewed in publications such as *Frieze*, *Art in America*, *Artforum.com*, *Artslant.com*, *NewCity Chicago*, *TimeOut Chicago*, and the *Chicago Tribune*. Last year Gunn's first solo exhibition at moniquemeloche was concurrent with his solo show - the 12x12 UBS: New Artists/New Work series - at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago.

Jason Middlebrook (American, born 1966, lives Hudson, NY), has exhibited extensively in the US and in Europe since receiving his MFA from San Francisco Art Institute in 1994. His work has been exhibited at the Arthouse, Austin, TX; Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, CT; The Aspen Art Museum, CO; Palazzo delle Papesse Centro Arte Contemporanea Siena, Italy; The New Museum NY; The Whitney Museum NY; The Welcome Trust, London; and the Public Art Fund NY, among other institutions. His work is in the permanent collections of the Addison Gallery of American Art, Andover, MA; Albright Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY; Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO; Microsoft Corporate Art Collection, Redmond, WA; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA; Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY; New Museum, New York, NY; Progressive Art Collection, Mayfield, OH; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY. Currently, Middlebrook has work in the exhibition *Alexander Calder and Contemporary Art: Form, Balance, Joy*, curated by Lynne Warren, which has been traveling to various museum venues since its origination at the MCA Chicago in 2010. Upcoming in 2013, Middlebrook will have a solo exhibition of his wood plank sculptures at MASS MoCA.

Joel Ross (American, born 1966, lives Urbana, IL) holds an MFA from Cranbrook Academy for Art and a BFA from Tufts University. Born in Port Arthur, Texas, he is the son of a police sergeant and the grandson of a Baptist preacher. He received a discharge from the United States Marine Corps in 1984. Currently he is Associate Professor in the School of Art and Design at University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana. Recent exhibitions include *It's Not My First Time*, Beta Pictoris Maus Contemporary Art, Birmingham AL; *(No) Vacancy*, Carrie Secrist Gallery, Chicago IL; and *Write Now!* curated by Nathan Mason, Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago IL.

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moniquemeloche is pleased to announce the next **on the wall** project



Karolina Gnatowski
PPPPPresto!

May 19 – July 28, 2012

Opening reception Saturday, May 19th, 4-7pm

Karolina Gnatowski (American b. 1980, lives Chicago) was invited to propose a window project concurrent with our *wood* show, but not necessarily in response to it. However, her installation *PPPPPresto!* directly references the 5 male artists making “hard” paintings and sculptures out of wood inside the gallery space. Gnatowski’s knit and multi-media project actually incorporates live plants, rather than dead ones, and will evolve 5 times over the summer.

Karolina Gnatowski (American, born 1980, lives Chicago) received her BFA from The University of the Arts, Philadelphia in 2002 and her MFA from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2007. Recent exhibitions include *Tie Dyes On The Sunrise* (solo), curated by Nancy Lu Rosenheim at the Bike Room, Chicago; *Bauhaus Now* at the Ukrainian institute of Modern Art, Chicago; *R & D*, curated by Britton Bertran, at Manifold Gallery, Chicago, and *In Circles* at SideCar Gallery, Hammond, IN. Currently Gnatowski has a solo exhibition curated by Marianne Fairbanks and Alysia Kaplan at Lula Café. Upcoming in 2012 her work will be included in *Stranger Danger* at Hinge Gallery, Chicago and *More Than Naked*, curated by Christian Rieben at Loyola University, Chicago.

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The "on the wall" series is a rotation of projects on the gallery's 10 x 25 foot wall viewed through our floor to ceiling windows on Division Street visible 24/7. Designed to engage the community and challenge the white cube notion of “viewing,” the series features site-specific projects in a wide range of media made by an equally diverse group of artists. The gallery hopes to bring new work to Chicago and views this series as an opportunity to work with an exciting group of artists new to the gallery. The "on the wall" series is generously funded in part the Wicker Park Bucktown Special Service Area 33.

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