

DIAZ CONTEMPORARY

September 5 2006
Press Release

MOWRY BADEN
THREE SCULPTURES

SEPTEMBER 09 – OCTOBER 14, 2006
OPENING SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 09, 3-6PM

Artist in attendance

Diaz Contemporary commemorates its first anniversary with the gallery's first solo show of work by influential and esteemed artist, Mowry Baden, the recipient of a 2006 Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts.

During his nearly 40 years as a sculptor, Mowry Baden has developed various methods of decentring vision and interfacing with habitual human gestures. He has built harnesses, furniture, rooms, pathways, and catwalks, all with the goal of impinging on the viewer's movements and awakening a previously unconscious physical self-awareness.

Through his work, Baden seeks to provoke a perceptual crisis that assaults the viewer's confidence in the information relayed by the senses. Baden is interested in the experience of his work more than in the work as object, wanting the viewer to engage with his sculpture in a visceral, internal, and sensorially cross-circuited manner.

This exhibition revolves around a major recent work, *Tender Trepanation* (2005). Emphatically phenomenological, this piece differs from many of Baden's previous sculptures in its emphasis on the sense of touch. The viewer wears special headgear while sitting in a chair that gyrates slowly through predetermined cycles; because the headgear is filled with water, the viewer feels the weight of it shift variously with the movement of the chair. The resulting sensation is that of being on a ship in rolling seas.

The second sculpture in the show, *Prone Gyres* (2000), decentres vision. In it, an articulated arm supports a low platform upon which the viewer can lie. Viewers can then propel themselves through a wide range of intersecting gyres. The smooth action of the arm creates a sensation comparable to gliding through calm air currents. In *Now Iguana* (2002), the viewer sits on a seat with feet, pelvis, chest, and chin resting on adjustable supports.

Mowry Baden was born in Los Angeles in 1936 and educated at Pomona College and Stanford University. Baden has lived and worked in Canada since 1971. He has taught sculpture at Raymond College, Pomona College, the University of British Columbia, and the University of Victoria, from which he retired in 1997. He lives in Victoria, BC.

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JESSICA STOCKHOLDER*
FIVE MONOPRINTS

SEPTEMBER 09–OCTOBER 14, 2006
OPENING SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 09, 3–6PM

The second half of Diaz Contemporary's first anniversary exhibitions comprises a show of work by renowned Canadian/American artist Jessica Stockholder.

Known for her gorgeous, expansive, colourful installations made up of orderings of found materials and objects. The artist also produces collages and other assemblages, and it is just such a series that will be on display at Diaz. Transferring her aesthetic, materials, and methods to wall-mounted works, this exhibition of five untitled monoprints presents a rare opportunity to view Stockholder's smaller scale works; microcosms of her imaginative realm.

Produced with Two Palms Press in NYC, these works are wall work monoprints in only the most luminal sense. Erupting from the two-dimensional surface of their mounts, they are filled with chunklets of fun fur, swirls of fabric, and layered matter. A transposition and condensation of Stockholder's sweeping visions, these monoprints are virtual Pangaeas of swirling mass; a look at elements that are the bases of Stockholder's sculptural works.

Born in 1959 in Seattle, Washington, and raised in Vancouver, British Columbia, Stockholder studied fine arts at the University of British Columbia, and the University of Victoria, from which she received her BFA in 1982, and Yale University, from which she received her MFA in 1985. Stockholder has exhibited extensively in the United States and internationally, with participation at the Venice Biennale, and a major exhibition at the DIA Center for the Arts in New York. She is the recipient of numerous awards, grants, and honours including a Guggenheim Fellowship award and a number of Canada Council Grants. Stockholder currently lives and works in New Haven, CT where she is the director of the Yale School of Art Sculpture Department.

*Courtesy Mitchell-Innes & Nash

UPCOMING

OCTOBER 19–NOVEMBER 25
ELIZABETH MCINTOSH
NEW PAINTINGS

NOVEMBER 30–JANUARY 13
MICHELLE ALLARD
INSTALLATION & SCULPTURE

OONA STERN
SCULPTURE

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