

For Immediate Release

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Assemblage artists investigate connections between humanity and nature

The Bath House Cultural Center presents

Natura Fragilis
Curated by Enrique Fernández Cervantes

March 14-April 18, 2009

Opening Reception with the Artists: Sunday, March 15, 2009 (7-9 PM)

Free and open to the public

DALLAS –The Bath House Cultural Center presents *Natura Fragilis*, an exhibition presenting the works of twelve Texas assemblage artists who find fundamental connections between humans and nature through the creation of their art. The exhibition, curated by *Enrique Fernández Cervantes*, will run from March 14 to April 18, 2009. An opening reception with the artists will be held on Sunday, March 15, 2009 from 7 to 9 PM. Both the exhibition and the reception are free and open to the public.

About the exhibition:

Natura Fragilis features a group of twelve artists living and working in Texas who utilize the technique of found-object assemblage and sculpture and explore the interwoven connection between the fragility of the natural environment and the vulnerability of the human spirit.

The concept of this exhibition originated as a result of the observation of the constant affinity of some humans to be overly preoccupied with matters that pertain exclusively with the accumulation of wealth and material property, and their usual tendency to overlook the splendor and beauty of nature and the rewards of spiritual fulfillment. Some would argue that the harmful effects of the frequent inclination of modern society to attach a superior value and dependence onto material wealth and possessions at the expense of spiritual and intellectual values have become sadly evident as the collapse of financial institutions and the current economic challenges become front page news not only in the USA, but also in a global level.

This exhibition sets out to investigate the failure of society to perceive the significant similarities, connections, and interaction between humans and nature. In a time when materialism and consumerism tend to overshadow any attempt to promote an awareness of the human-nature relationship, the twelve artists in this show elevate the environmental and spiritual nature of our lives to a more prominent stage. With superior craftsmanship, engaging themes, and utmost grace, the artists of this show capture ideas of fragility, vulnerability, neglect, destruction/reconstruction, faith, and resilience, in a clear attempt to reconcile the multiple conflicting views of our place in this world.

The artists participating in this exhibition are: **Mirtha Aertker, Kathy Boortz, Bryan Gooding, John Green, Yesenia R. Martinez, Nikki Myers, Skip Noah, Shayne W. Ridenour, Joe Sarate, Shawn Saumell, Juan Valdez, and Julie Zarate.**

About the Curator:

Enrique Fernández Cervantes has served as Visual Arts Coordinator and Exhibition Curator at the Bath House Cultural Center and the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs since 1999.

SPE National Conference and DADA's Spring Gallery Walk:

This exhibition will be on view at the Bath House Cultural Center coinciding with the 46th National Conference of the Society of Photographic Education (SPE) to be held this year in Dallas, and also during the Spring Gallery Walk of the Dallas Art Dealers Association (DADA). For more information about the SPE Conference, please visit www.spenational.org. To read more about DADA's gallery walk, please visit www.dallasartdealers.org.

Please visit <http://bathhousecultural.com/naturafragilis.html> for more information and to preview selected art pieces from the exhibition.

Press Photographs

To download print-resolution (300 dpi) JPEG press photographs of this exhibition, please visit: the online press room at

<http://www.bathhousecultural.com/press.html>.

Publication of photographs must contain the credit line provided on the webpage. Photographs may only be used for promotional, educational, or non-commercial purposes.



"Existent Tide" -
Assemblage by Bryan
Gooding

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The Bath House Cultural Center is a division of the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs. The center is dedicated to fostering the growth, development and quality of multi-cultural arts within the City of Dallas. The center emphasizes innovating visual and performing arts as well as other multi-discipline events throughout the year. Funding for the Bath House Cultural Center is provided by the City of Dallas, with additional support from the Texas Commission on the Arts.

LOCATION AND HOURS:

The Bath House Cultural Center is located on the eastern shore of White Rock Lake at the end of Northcliff Dr. off of Buckner Blvd. at 521 E. Lawther, Dallas, TX 75218. Hours of operation are Tuesday-Saturday, 12:00 noon to 6:00 PM. The center is open until 10:00 PM on nights with theatre performances. For general information about cultural programs at the Bath House Cultural Center, please call (214) 670-8749 or visit the center's website at www.bathhousecultural.com

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