

A VISION OF NYC

BROADENING PERSPECTIVES

2008-2009



Established by Executive Order No. 17 in 1973, the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities functions as a liaison between the disability community and City Government, and works collaboratively with other agencies to assure that the rights and needs of people with disabilities are included in all City initiatives. The office is responsible for developing City policies concerning people with disabilities, overseeing and assisting in implementation of City compliance with laws recognizing rights of people with disabilities, providing information on disability-related matters and housing referrals, and advises the Department of Buildings on the implementation of Building Code accessibility provisions (Local Law 58).

Dear Friends,

New York is the world's most diverse city and its artistic capital. This combination is no coincidence—our residents' varied backgrounds, viewpoints, and experiences help to inspire and inform the incredible works of art that bring life to our galleries, museums, and theaters. This calendar, a unique collaboration between *VSA arts* and the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD), highlights the relationship between our artists' unique backgrounds and their powerful work.

Since its founding by Ambassador Jean Kennedy Smith more than three decades ago, *VSA arts* has helped people with disabilities learn through, participate in, and enjoy the arts, and this calendar is a terrific example of the work they have done for so many people in New York City and far beyond. We commend Dr. Bebe Bernstein, executive director of the *VSA arts of New York City* affiliate, and all those who have made possible this collection of bold, vibrant, engaging art.

On behalf of the City of New York, we hope that the days in this calendar are filled with success for all those associated with *VSA arts* and MOPD.

Sincerely,

Soula Antoniou
President
VSA arts

Sincerely,

Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor



VSA arts is an international nonprofit organization founded in 1974 by Ambassador Jean Kennedy Smith to create a society where people with disabilities learn through, participate in, and enjoy the arts. *VSA arts* provides educators, parents, and artists with resources and the tools to support arts programming in schools and communities. *VSA arts* showcases the accomplishments of artists with disabilities and promotes increased access to the arts for people with disabilities. Each year millions of people participate in *VSA arts* programs through a nationwide network of affiliates and in 55 countries around the world. *VSA arts* is an affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. For more information, visit www.vsarts.org or call 1-800-933-8721.

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Sophie Kahn

Sophie Kahn was born in London in 1980 and grew up in Melbourne, Australia. She earned a degree in fine art and art history at Goldsmiths College, University of London, in 2001, and went on to study spatial information architecture at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. There she expanded her practice to include animation, 3-D imaging, and digital sculpture. Kahn's experiences with myalgic encephalomyelitis/ chronic fatigue syndrome and fibromyalgia have led to several bodies of work addressing medical imaging and the body. She currently lives and works in New York City, where she continues to explore these issues in her artistic practice.

www.barrettkahn.com



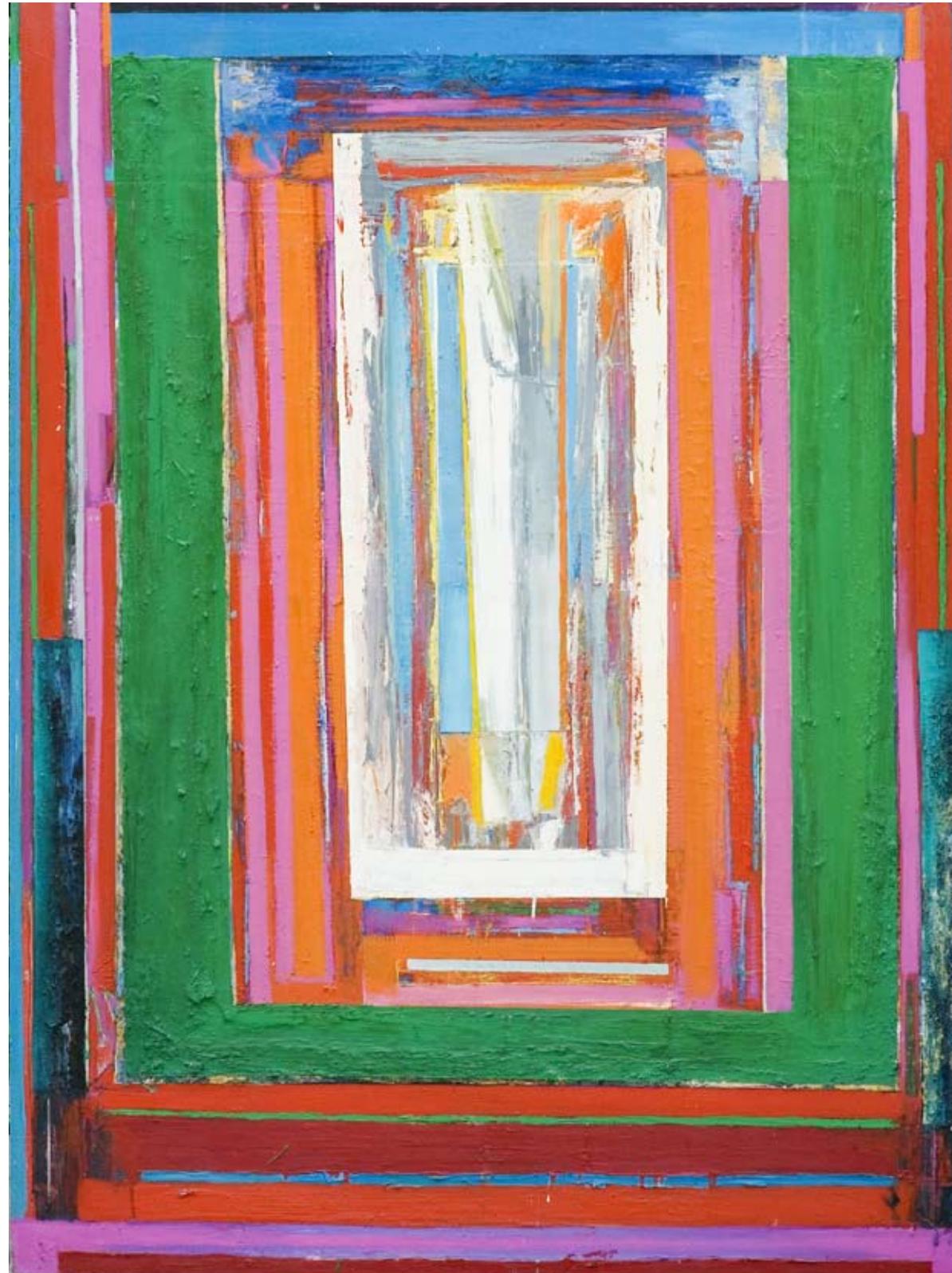
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© 2004 Sophie Kahn, *Head of a Young Woman*, bronze from 3-D scan and wax stereolithograph (life-size)

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© 1986–88 Martin Cohen, *Indian Burial*, oil on canvas (72" x 48"); photograph by Carey Weiss

Martin Cohen

Martin Cohen earned a BFA degree from SUNY Purchase—where, inspired by figurative and abstract expressionism, his own style evolved. He then studied at the Studio School of New York and received an MFA degree from Carnegie Mellon University. Cohen’s work has been exhibited in various galleries, including Blue Heron Art Center in Vashon, Washington, and New York’s Mercer Street Gallery, Ten BC Gallery, and Cooper Union. The artist, who has schizoaffective disorder, has produced works acquired by numerous corporate patrons and featured in group and solo exhibitions at venues including the New York galleries Vivian Horan Fine Art and Fountain Gallery.

www.fountaingallerynyc.com



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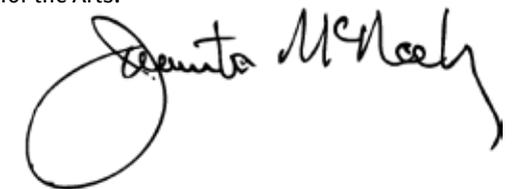
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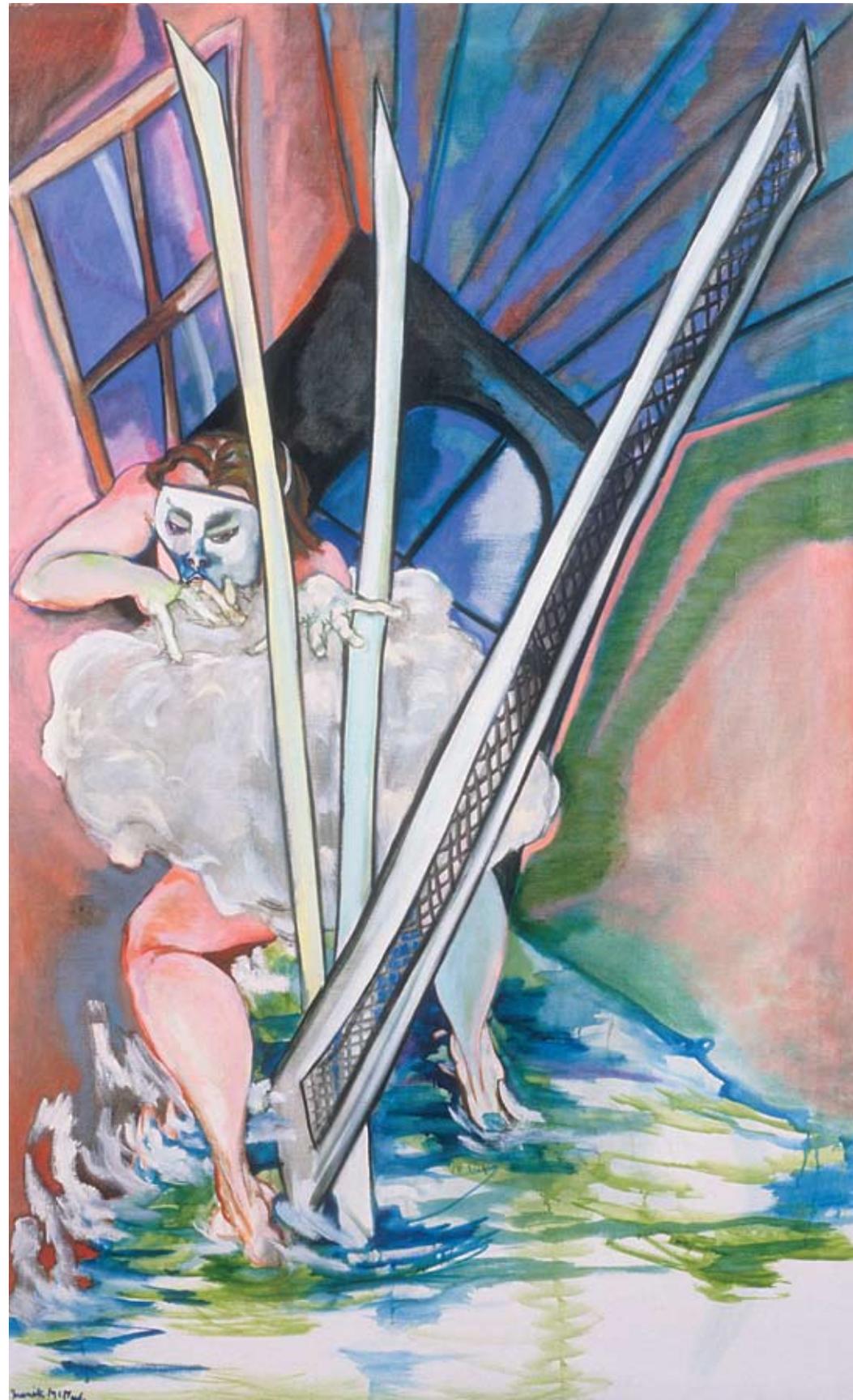
08
OCTOBER

Juanita McNeely

Originally from St. Louis, Missouri, Juanita McNeely was educated at Washington University's St. Louis School of Fine Arts and, later, Southern Illinois University. Her expressive canvases have been exhibited in cities throughout North America, including New York, Toronto, and Washington, D.C., as well as in Mexico, Taiwan, and China. Her work hangs in private collections in North America, Central America, and Asia, and has been reviewed in the *New York Times*, *Art News*, *Village Voice*, and *Arts Magazine*. McNeely, who works with limited mobility due to necrosis of the spinal cord, is the recipient of numerous awards, including grants from the Pollock-Krasner Foundation, Adolph and Esther Gottlieb Foundation, and New York Council for the Arts.



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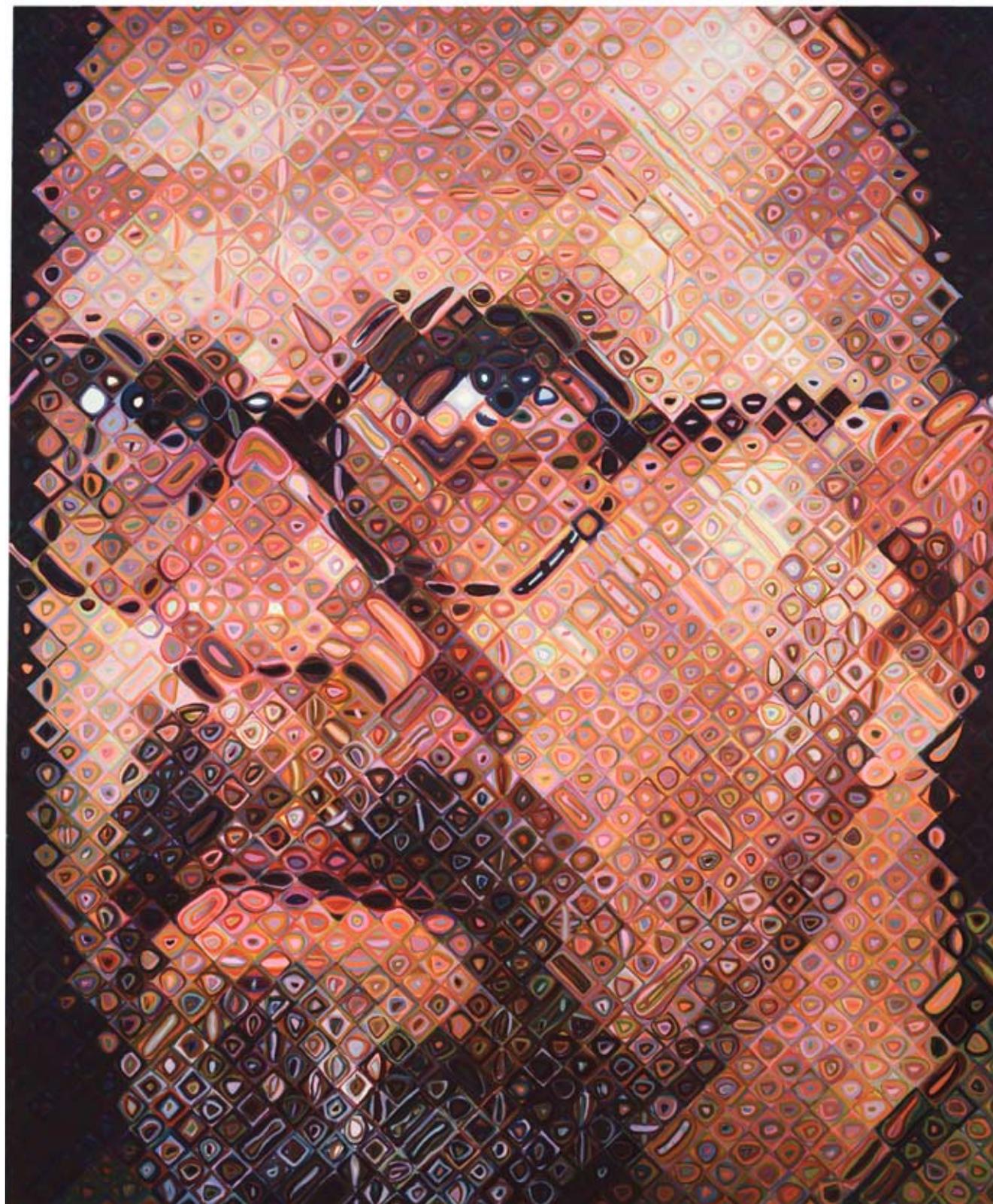
© 2000-, Juanita McNeely, *Window Series: Clouds*, oil on linen (44" x 72")

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08

NOVEMBER



Chuck Close

Chuck Close is a leading figure in the development of photo-based painting. His work has been the subject of more than 150 solo exhibitions and major museum retrospectives. Other important solo exhibitions have been at the Museum of Modern Art, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Art Institute of Chicago, and the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris. Close has participated in almost 800 group exhibitions, including *Documenta 5* and 6, four Whitney Biennials, three Venice Biennales, and the Carnegie International. The award-winning artist is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters and serves on the board of several arts organizations, including the Whitney Museum of American Art. Close, who has paralysis due to a spinal cord artery collapse, has received more than 20 honorary degrees including one from Yale University, his alma mater.

www.pacewildenstein.com

Chuck Close

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© 1997 Chuck Close, *Self-Portrait*, oil on canvas (102" x 84"); photograph by Ellen Page Wilson



© 1987 Jerzy Bitter, *After the War*, oil on canvas (30" x 40")

Jerzy Bitter

Jerzy Bitter was born in Lvov, Poland (now Ukraine), in 1941 and as a child experienced the Warsaw Ghetto. He and his mother survived the Holocaust by living in hiding for several years. Bitter completed his formal art studies first at Art Students League in New York and then at New York University, where he received a master's degree in 1975, five years after a motorcycle accident left him partially paralyzed. Bitter's stark figural depictions have been exhibited throughout the United States in New York, Washington, D.C., and Chicago, as well as in Poland, France, and the Netherlands.

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© 2006 Theresa Byrnes, *Kangaroo #2*, ink on paper (36" x 59")

Theresa Byrnes

Originally from Australia, painter, performance artist, and writer Theresa Byrnes was born in Sydney in 1969. She earned a degree in visual arts from Sydney College of the Arts and, beginning in 1986, exhibited throughout Australia before relocating to New York City in 2000. Her artistic roots are in oil painting, moving from portraits to abstraction in 1995. In 2003, she received a Pollock-Krasner Foundation grant and has gone on to exhibit extensively at venues in both Australia and the United States, including Saatchi & Saatchi and Sotheby's Australia. Byrnes, who has Friedreich's ataxia, published her autobiography, *The Divine Mistake*, in 1999.

www.theresabyrnes.com

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09 FEBRUARY

Jonathan Lerman

Born in Queens, New York, in 1987, Jonathan Lerman began his exploration of drawing with charcoal medium at age 10, sparked by the death of his grandfather. He had his first solo exhibition two years later at KS Art Gallery in New York City. Lerman's expressive portraits, depicting people both real and imagined, have earned comparisons to the work of George Grosz and Francis Bacon. He has exhibited widely in both solo and group shows, and his work has been published in the catalogue *Jonathan Lerman: Drawings of a Boy with Autism* by renowned art critic Lyle Rexer.

www.ksartonline.com/jl.html



© 2007 Jonathan Lerman, *Two Lovers*, charcoal on Bristol board (24" x 19")

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09
MARCH

Coralina Meyer

A professional architect and Parsons School of Design-trained artist, Coralina Meyer explores the subtleties of scale and the relationship between figure and landscape, subject and object, in her work. Her photographs, drawings, paintings, sculpture, and multimedia compositions have been exhibited throughout the United States in New York, Miami, and Washington, D.C., and in Puerto Rico. Meyer, who had a traumatic brain injury, seeks to examine the visible and sometimes overlooked experiences of the body, mapping the physical relics of a concealed existence. Mapping the innate connection between mind and body, Meyer's work explores what it means to be human.

www.coralinameyer.net



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© 2006 Coralina Meyer, *Axons*, ballpoint pen and pastel on wood (8" x 12")

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Gordon Sasaki

Born in Honolulu, Hawai'i, like many children Gordon Sasaki became interested in art at an early age, first exhibiting a flower painting at the age of 10 at the Los Angeles County Children's Museum. Later, while studying art in college, Sasaki injured his spinal cord in an automobile accident and has since used a wheelchair for mobility. Currently living in New York City, Sasaki uses a variety of materials to explore multiple aspects of the body and its representation. His work has been exhibited internationally in Belgium, Japan, Spain, and Germany, and throughout the United States. He is a recipient of awards and grants from the Pollock-Krasner Foundation, the Puffin Foundation, the New York Foundation for the Arts, and the Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts.

Gordon

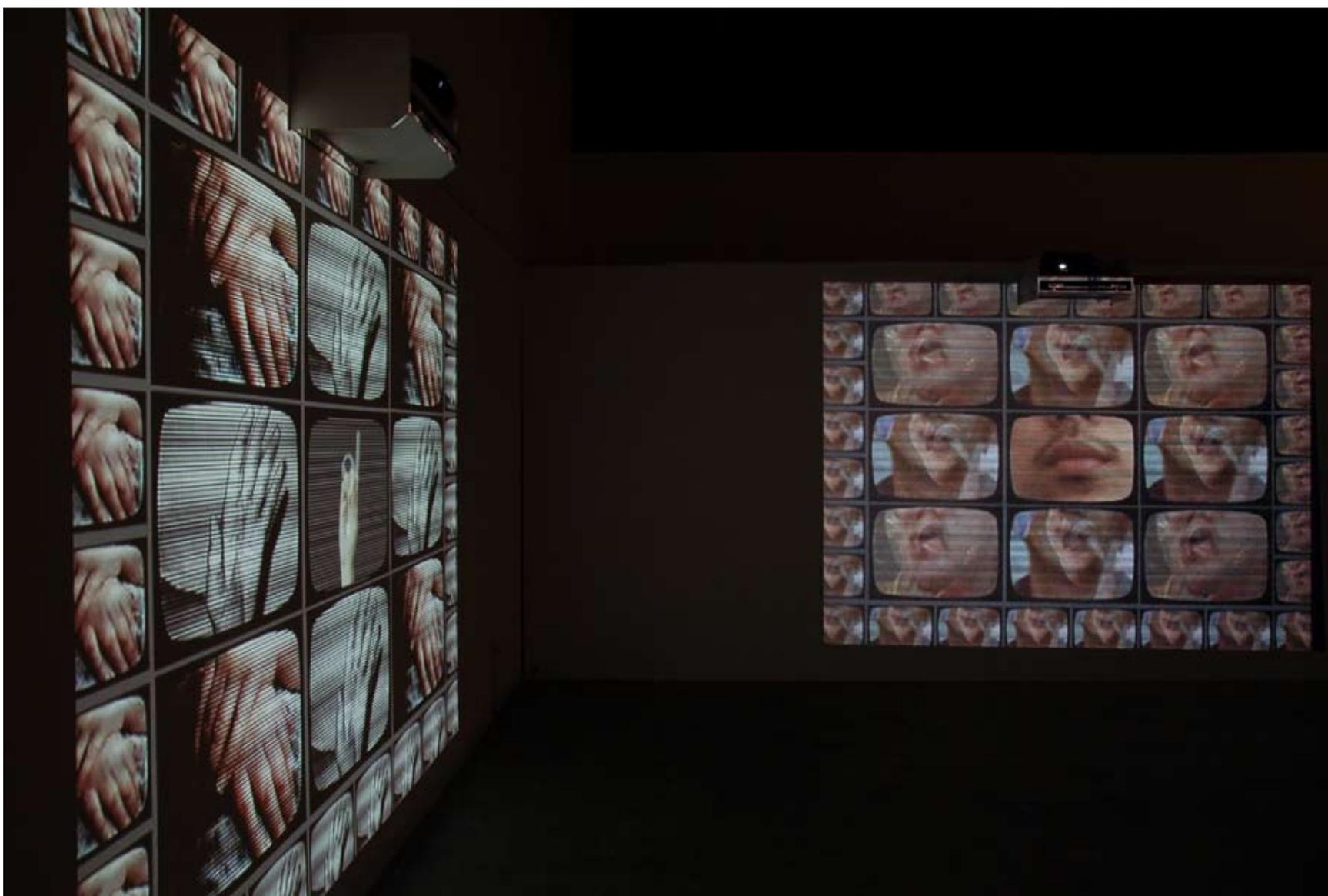


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09
MAY



© 2008 Leon Lim, *Hearing and Deafness: Missing Messages*, multimedia installation (18' x 18' x 10')

Leon Lim

Born in Alor Setar, Malaysia, Leon Lim grew up in Penang. As a child, he initially became interested in art and design through exposure to album cover art. He visited music stores frequently, searching for new and interesting images and designs. Lim's journey to New York began when he enrolled at the Rochester Institute of Technology, where he studied painting, design, film, and photography. For Lim, who is Deaf and fluent in American Sign Language, the visual experience is intimately linked with corporeality—the eye effectively becomes an organ of sense and touch. The artist's multigenre work has been exhibited in New York and Washington, D.C., and internationally in Penang, Kuala Lumpur, Tokyo, and Seoul.

www.26studio.com



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© 1997 Laura Ferguson, *Single Hand*, oils, bronze powder, charcoal, pastel pencil, and oil crayon on paper (6 3/4" x 9 1/4")

Laura Ferguson

When Laura Ferguson became interested in visualizing her own curving and rotated spine (the result of scoliosis), she studied anatomy, learned to read x-rays and scans, and spent many hours drawing at Weill Cornell Medical College's Anatomy Lab. With the help of radiologists at New York University Medical Center, Ferguson was able to have a 3-D spiral CT scan, which yielded dynamic images that she used as source material for her Visible Skeleton series. These rich, multilayered drawings have been widely exhibited at the National Museum of Health and Medicine in Washington, D.C.; the Museum of Science in Boston; and galleries in New York and around the country.

www.lauraferguson.net

Jane Jay

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09
JULY



© 2006 Mark C. Parsons, *Constructed Portrait* (detail), steel (18' x 11' x 9')

Mark C. Parsons

After studying biology and chemistry at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, Mark C. Parsons completed his bachelor of fine arts degree. He went on to earn a master of fine arts at Cornell University, where he was awarded the U.S. Department of Education Jacob K. Javits National Fellowship. Parsons has held teaching appointments at Cornell University, Pratt Institute, Hunter College, and Silvermine Arts Guild. He is currently teaching and serving as director of production for Pratt Institute Architecture. Parsons, who has multiple sclerosis, has exhibited his work at the United Nations, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Provincetown Art Museum, the New Bedford Art Museum, and numerous private galleries in New York and elsewhere.

www.thatartist.com



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09 AUGUST

John Dugdale

Born in Connecticut in 1960, photographer John Dugdale began experimenting with a toy camera at age 11. As a young adult, he had four images published in *Interview* magazine, and went on to cultivate a successful career in commercial photography. He began focusing on fine art photography after cytomegalovirus (CMV) retinitis reduced his vision to 20% in one eye. Dugdale is known for his ethereal, intimate images, often produced in blue cyanotype or warm sepia albumen prints. His photographs have been exhibited in New York, San Francisco, Boston, Los Angeles, and Washington, D.C., and hang in several private and museum collections, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

www.johndugdale.net

John Dugdale



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© 2003 Scott Zwiren, *Eating Myself Up Alive*, graphite (11" x 8 1/2")

Scott Zwiren

Scott Zwiren studied art at Colgate University before earning his bachelor of fine arts in 1986 from the Tisch School of the Arts, New York University, where he studied film animation and playwriting. In 1996 Zwiren published *God Head* (Dalkey Archives Press), for which he received the Barnes and Noble Discovery Award for best debut novel. He is a member of the Bridge Group Artists and his work has been shown in the Bridge Program exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art (2006–07). Zwiren, who has bipolar disorder, received a Grandiva Award nomination for *The Snailman* (2003), an epic five-foot-long canvas that he completed over the span of a decade.

Scott Zwiren

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Mark di Suvero

Marco Polo di Suvero was born in Shanghai, China, in 1933, and as a young man studied art and philosophy at the University of California, Berkeley. He later moved to New York City where he was a founding member of Park Place Gallery, an artist cooperative and the first contemporary art gallery in SoHo. Early on in New York, di Suvero's back was crushed in a construction job accident. During his rehabilitation he learned to use an arc welder and continued his artistic efforts to create large-scale works in steel. As an ex-paraplegic with residual paralysis, di Suvero welds, cuts, and runs a crane to construct his sculpture. Assistants help him with large set-ups and de-installations. *Joie de Vivre* was built in California, shown in the Esplanade des Invalides in Paris, and is now in New York City. In 1986, di Suvero founded Socrates Sculpture Park in Long Island City, New York.

www.spacetimecc.com

Marco Polo

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© 1997 Mark di Suvero, *Joie de Vivre*, steel (70' x 30' 6" x 24' 6"); photograph by Peter Bellamy taken at Zuccotti Park, lower Manhattan

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© 2007 Mare Vaccaro, *Waiting III*, digital c-print (20" x 16"; limited edition of 5)

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Mare Vaccaro

Born in New Orleans, Mare Vaccaro completed a BA at the University of New Orleans, followed by an MFA at Parsons The New School for Design in New York City. Her photography investigates the deconstructed female form and its relationship to femininity, beauty, and empty adornment. Vaccaro was awarded a residency with Vermont Studio Center in Johnson, Vermont, in 2004, and a "New Works" residency with Banff Center for the Arts in Banff, Canada, in 2007. In 2007 she also completed a residency with A.I.R. Vallauris in Vallauris, France. Vaccaro, who has alopecia universalis, maintains a studio in Chelsea, New York City, and is represented by Rhonda Schaller Gallery.

www.marevaccarostudio.com

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09
NOVEMBER



© 2004 Robin Antar, *Work Boot—Red*, resin and auto body paint from stone carving (12" x 6 1/2" x 4 1/2"); photograph by Valery Lemberg

Robin Antar

A native of Atlantic City, New Jersey, sculptor Robin Antar began carving stone in 1974 and earned her BFA from New York's School of Visual Arts in 1981. She has exhibited widely and received commissions from the Heinz Corporation, Château Haut-Brion Wines, Skechers USA, and Dr. Martens. Antar is known for her hyperrealistic stone sculptures, which she creates with custom-made stains, paints, plastics, and gold leaf. By replicating the model on a larger-than-life scale with meticulous attention to detail, she freezes the object in time as an artistic form of artifact. Antar, who was born blind in one eye, uses unconventional concepts and expert techniques that have earned her work a spot in many private and corporate collections.

www.rantar.com

R. Antar

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Christian Valle
Graphic Artist
MOPD

Christian Valle is a member of the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities team. He

is responsible for the design and layout of MOPD publications and documents as well as providing a broad range of technical support and oversight of the office's Web page. In the summer of 1990, while in high school, he sustained a spinal cord injury in a diving accident that nearly ended his life and almost completely paralyzed him. Over the next few years, he developed his gift for fine art and computer graphics and began working as the arts coordinator at the Queens Independent Living Center. Later, after becoming information and technology manager, he created a Web site to support artists with disabilities. According to Valle, "computers are the great equalizer, allowing me to create what is in my mind's eye, regardless of the physical challenges."



Richard Lynch
Art Director
VSA arts

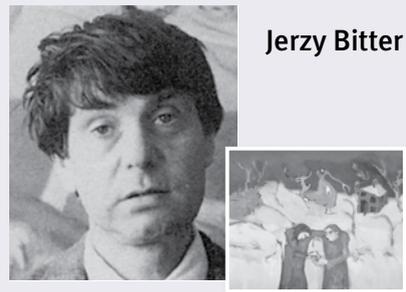
Richard Lynch is art director of *VSA arts* in Washington, D.C. During his freshman year of college, he

became a quadriplegic as the result of a diving accident. Lynch obtained a degree in imaging and digital arts from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, in 1993 and experienced firsthand the cutting edge of technological innovation and development of the computer as a fine art tool. He went on to found the graphic design company Digital Creations, which he operated for five years before joining *VSA arts* in 1998. His creative vision not restrained to the digital realm, Lynch also works with more traditional media, including acrylic and glass. His seven-year-old triplets are a constant reminder of the joy of experimentation and discovery.

This calendar, a collaboration between VSA arts and the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD), highlights New York artists, their unique backgrounds, and their powerful work.



Sophie Kahn



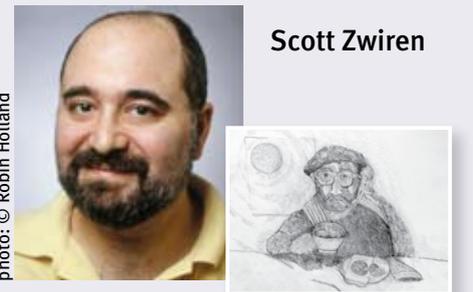
Jerzy Bitter



Gordon Sasaki



John Dugdale



Scott Zwiren

photo: © Robin Holland



Martin Cohen



photo: © 2008 Bobbi Bennett

Theresa Byrnes



Leon Lim



photo: © Anne Leigniel

Mark di Suvero



Juanita McNeely



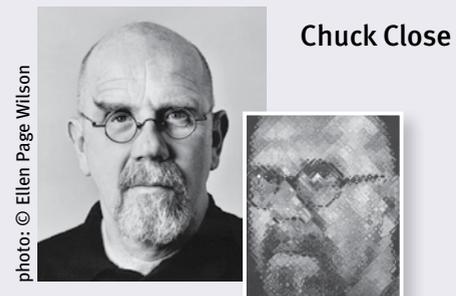
Jonathan Lerman



Laura Ferguson



Mare Vaccaro



Chuck Close

photo: © Ellen Page Wilson



Coralina Meyer



Mark C. Parsons



Robin Antar