

WE TELL OURSELVES STORIES IN ORDER TO LIVE

We tell ourselves stories in order to live...We look for the sermon in the suicide, for the social or moral lesson in the murder of five. We interpret what we see, select the most workable of the multiple choices. We live entirely, especially if we are writers, by the imposition of a narrative line upon disparate images, by the "ideas" with which we have learned to freeze the shifting phantasmagoria which is our actual experience.

—Joan Didion, *The White Album*, 1979

This passage of Didion's writing offers an evocative lens through which to view the diverse body of artwork being done by the nine recipients of the Hallie Ford Foundation Fellowship. These artists, each with a distinct relationship to the creative process, all share a fascination with the precarious relationship between fact and fiction.

Didion calls attention to the seemingly ever-present possibility that anything one thinks to be true can very quickly be proven to be a fabrication. In this sense, while the artists in this exhibition can be thought of as storytellers, they take widely divergent approaches to this notion. They all possess a willingness to question the things in life that we trust and the assumptions we make about reality and artifice. In turn they are aware of their roles as complicit in this dynamic as artistic creators. In each their own way, they challenge belief systems, opening up the potential for new narratives, new realities. In doing so they explore age-old disjunctions between truth and fiction. Through this slippage, the artists in the exhibition reveal an underlying skepticism tinged with optimism in regards to what we tell ourselves about the world around us.

This exhibition aims to showcase the full breadth of these artists' practices, many working in various formats and media yet with overarching concerns that unite the works on view. From video and digital photography, to oil painting, drawing and sculpture, to ceramics and knitting; these artists all value craftsmanship and the hand of the artist. This embracing of broad artistic media tells us something

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about the times we are living in, we like Didion, gain information about the phantasmagoria of our world in a multitude of ways. We are a dynamic culture that values the handcrafted alongside the digital as equally a vital and necessary. Through this lens, we are in fact able to notice and learn more about this often times perplexing world in which we live.

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