



## **Two New Studio Artists Selected**

### **Atlanta Contemporary Art Center Welcomes Craig Drennen and Michael David Murphy**

**Atlanta** - July 7, 2010 - Atlanta Contemporary Art Center is pleased to announce the selection of Craig Drennen and Michael David Murphy as the newest additions to the Studio Artist Program. Drennen and Murphy were chosen from a highly competitive group of applicants by a review panel including current board members and studio artists, staff, and representatives from the Atlanta arts community. In addition to their artistic excellence, they were recommended for their level of creative activity and engagement with the Atlanta arts community.

Upon the selection of these artists, Artistic Director, Stuart Horodner stated, "Craig and Michael will be wonderful additions to the great group of artists in our program. They are respected makers of challenging work and both are interested in dialogue and camaraderie."

**Craig Drennen** is an artist whose paintings and drawings have been exhibited at venues including Gallery Stokes in Atlanta and Zero Degree Gallery in Beijing, and he will be included in upcoming exhibitions at PPOW Gallery in New York and Samson Projects in Boston. In 2009, Drennen was named dean at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture.

**Michael David Murphy** is a photographer whose works have been presented in Atlanta at Spruill Gallery, Opal Gallery, Cherry Lion Gallery, and Newseum in Washington DC. He is currently the program manager of Atlanta Celebrates Photography and the founder of Photographer's Print Studio in Decatur, GA.

The **Studio Artist Program** of the Atlanta Contemporary Art Center supports local working artists by providing subsidized studio space, and by fostering a collaborative environment supportive of the creative process. This is a unique program that fills a critical need in the Atlanta arts community—affordable studio space and career development opportunities for artists. The goal of the Studio Artist Program is to provide local artists the opportunity to create in a setting that will support their artistic development and provide them with the resources necessary to advance their careers. ACAC offers this support by providing fourteen Atlanta artists with work space, opportunities for professional development and networking, educational programming and events, and access to arts professionals.

Two special events a year are programmed around the studio artists. Called Open Studios, these events provide an opportunity for the Studio Artists to show their work and network with collectors, patrons, and art enthusiasts in a convivial atmosphere. The next Open Studios is scheduled for Saturday, October 9, 2010.

## **About Atlanta Contemporary Art Center**

Atlanta Contemporary Art Center is a non-profit, non-collecting arts organization dedicated to excellence, experimentation and education in all forms of contemporary art and culture. Visit [www.thecontemporary.org](http://www.thecontemporary.org) to learn more.

For more information, contact Stuart Horodner, artistic director, at 404-688-1970 x 214 or [shorodner@thecontemporary.org](mailto:shorodner@thecontemporary.org)

# # #