



Atlanta
Contemporary
Art Center

EXHIBITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Jessica Jackson Hutchins: *The Important Thing About A Chair*

John Heward: *Things*

April 8 through June 19, 2011

at the Atlanta Contemporary Art Center

Atlanta –February 28, 2011 - The Atlanta Contemporary Art Center (ACAC) is pleased to announce the April 8 opening of two new exhibitions, Jessica Jackson Hutchins: *The Important Thing About A Chair*, and John Heward: *Things*. These exhibitions, on display through June 19, will provide visitors with surprisingly sensual experiences in the form of new works by two renowned contemporary artists.

Both artists utilize diverse materials to examine conditions of gesture, surface, space and time. Hutchins is an acclaimed American assemblage artist whose works possess a simultaneous strength and vulnerability; Heward is an accomplished Canadian painter, sculptor and musician whose activities continue a Minimalist tradition of precision and repetition. These simultaneous exhibitions exemplify ACAC's mission of presenting consequential artists from the local to the international, working in a variety of media and covering a range of topics.

The work of **Jessica Jackson Hutchins** is known for its robust physicality. In her sculptures, she teases out notions of function and display by creating richly glazed vessels and locating them on top of or inside used furniture (armchairs, couches, tables) or balancing them on plinths of her own devising (paper mache and plaster). Her use of old clothing, food containers and newspapers make reference to everyday rituals and family life; and place her in the history of artists who combine the personal and the cultural, including Kurt Schwitters, Robert Rauschenberg and Louise Bourgeois.

Works produced for her *The Important Thing About A Chair* exhibition make reference to religious narratives of conception, communion and death. Fragmented figures and forms express states of awkwardness and beauty. Recent drawings/prints turn text and punctuation marks into fleshy deposits on vibrant colored papers. In *Annunciation* (2011), Hutchins carved words and gestures into the top of a piano lid, and took an impression of its inked surface, later adding collage elements including a Virgin Records tee shirt and jewelry.

Jessica Jackson Hutchins: *The Important Thing About A Chair* is made possible with support from the Tim and Lauren Schragger Family Foundation.

John Heward is an interdisciplinary artist whose works are known for their improvisational spirit and restraint. For decades, he has investigated the most elemental acts of mark-making, shaping materials and percussive order. His works seem to question the steps from genesis to public-ness: how objects and events can be made, with what materials, and where and how they can be shared.

Heward has been content to use walls, floors and ceilings as sites for the display of his paintings, stressing a non-hierarchical and anti-precious approach. For his exhibition at ACAC, the artist will include a series of paintings displayed on the floor as well as hung in various ways throughout the gallery. Certain decisions about what goes where will be decided by staff and select visitors during the run of the exhibition, emphasizing subjectivity and chance.

The artist has performed as a drummer with small ensembles in free jazz and improvised music contexts, producing a significant discography. In conjunction with his paintings, we will present the video *John Heward: A Portrait*. This 2008 experimental documentary was made by Heward's wife, artist Sylvia Safdie, and it features music by Heward (percussion and kalimba) and Joe McPhee (alto sax, trumpet).

Exhibition Openings: Jessica Jackson Hutchins: *The Important Thing About A Chair*, and John Heward: *Things*

Friday, April 8, from 8 to 10 p.m.

Patron Member Preview and Tour, 7 to 8 p.m., by invitation, in partnership with the Consulate General of Canada (Atlanta)

Admission fees apply. Parking is free.

Artist Talk: Jessica Jackson Hutchins and John Heward

Saturday, April 9, from 11a.m. to 12 p.m.

Exhibiting artists Jessica Jackson Hutchins and John Heward discuss their inspirations and working methods.

Admission fees apply. Parking is free.

About the Artists:

Jessica Jackson Hutchins lives and works in Portland, OR. Her work has been exhibited in exhibitions including *Common Ground*, Seattle Art Museum (2011); *2010 The Whitney Biennial*, the Whitney Museum of American Art; *Dirt on Delight*, ICA Philadelphia and the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (2009); *Gone Formalism*, ICA Philadelphia (2006) and *Make it Now*, SculptureCenter (2005). Her work is in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Brooklyn Museum, the Seattle Art Museum, the Portland Art Museum and the Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum at Skidmore College.

John Heward lives and works in Montreal, Canada. His work has been exhibited at Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec, Galerie de l'UQAM and Galerie Roger Bellemare, Montreal; MOCCA and Peak Gallery, Toronto; and Centre culturel canadien, Paris. His work is in the collections of Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec, Musée d'art contemporain de Montreal, Art Gallery of Ontario and Air Canada.

About the Atlanta Contemporary Art Center:

Founded in 1973 as a grassroots artist cooperative, Atlanta Contemporary Art Center has developed into a multidisciplinary art center that plays a vital role in Atlanta's cultural landscape by making contemporary art accessible and by supporting artists and their creative process. ACAC presents 8-10 exhibitions per year featuring consequential artists from the local to the international, creating in various media and exploring diverse content. We organize approximately 50 diverse educational offerings a year. We also provide subsidized studio space to 14 local artists removing cost and space as barriers to the creative process. As a non-collecting institution we are dedicated to providing experiences through exhibitions and programming that chronicle the visual culture of our time. Visit www.thecontemporary.org to learn more.

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

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