

literally.

Aaron Carpenter, Joel Herman, Roula Partheniou

Since September 2008, Artspeak's ONSITE space has been dedicated to artist books, archives, libraries, and reading rooms. As an inversion of this, Artspeak is presenting *Literally*, an exhibition with an OFFSITE component that includes three artists working with the form of the book to make drawings, paintings, and video.

April 11–June 6, 2009

Opening

Friday, April 10, 8pm

Artists' roundtable

Saturday, April 11, 2pm

May 15–May 24, 2009

Finnigans Wake: Aaron Carpenter

Presented on the Bonnis Media CoreVision

dual outdoor screens at Robson and

Granville Streets

In their work, Aaron Carpenter, Joel Herman, and Roula Partheniou play with the representation and referentiality of literature and knowledge in humorous ways.

Interested in both mimicry and the processes of research, the artists consider the formal and connotative aspects of the book and the printed word as readymades and as points for further fiction. The readymade titles used by the artists become fictions in their own right, as Carpenter's *Polyglot* drawing series and video point to. Carpenter's drawings are altered facsimiles of book covers in which James Joyce's *Finnegans Wake* is mentioned. In *Finnigan(sp) Must Die!!!*, Joyce's work appears as science fiction, rendered part of the fictional universe of space travel, the starship Enterprise, and Spock. Carpenter's related video extends the parallels between Joyce's text and science fiction in filmic proportions on the Robson and Granville video board. Herman's meticulous drawings reproduce related book title pages at a one-to-one scale. The books are chosen for their titular language and often function in pairs such as the following: *Meaning and Expression / Expression and Meaning or Language and Logic / Logic and Language*. Herman's formal interest in symmetry plays out in subtle variations in scale and meaning. Partheniou's paintings of books operate as trompe l'oeil in the round, using the three-dimensionality of the readymade canvases to mimic the book form. The paintings (in stacks or groupings) construct their own narratives, while operating as exercises in language, scale, and ultimately pointing to the transformative aspects of re-making.

Aaron Carpenter is a graduate of Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design and is based in Vancouver. His work has been shown in solo exhibitions at Helen Pitt Gallery, Vancouver and Ministry of Casual Living, Victoria, as well in group exhibitions at the Vancouver Art Gallery; Paul Petro Projects, Toronto; Or Gallery, Vancouver; Brossarp, Sweden; and other galleries across Canada. His work is represented by Lawrence Eng.

Joel Herman is a Toronto based artist who recently graduated with his MFA from the University of Guelph. His work has been shown in exhibitions at Gallery 44, Toronto; Helen Pitt Gallery, Vancouver; Ministry of Casual Living, Victoria; and Open Space, Victoria, among others. His work is represented by Diaz Contemporary.

Roula Partheniou is a graduate of the University of Guelph and is based in Toronto. Her work has been shown in exhibitions at Printed Matter, New York; Priska C. Juschka Fine Art, New York; Art Metropole, Toronto; Mercer Union, Toronto; and Weatherspoon Art Gallery, Greensborough, among others. Her work is represented by MKG127.

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