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SuperFacial by Ryan Hill
Killing Me Softly by Lindsey Raymond

May 21 – June 19, 2010

Opening Reception for the artist:
Friday, May 21, 7-9pm

Civilian Art Projects is pleased to present the second solo exhibition of artist **Ryan Hill**. In "SuperFacial," Hill continues his process of exploring the contemporary cultural imagination through found images and word associations. In addition to works on paper, he further pushes his curiosity and welcomes the viewer into his imagination by exhibiting a related wall collage of ephemera, photographs, drawings and textworks and a video collaboration with DC area experimental filmmaker Rob Parrish. An essay by Ian Svenonius will accompany the exhibition.

The works on paper found in "SuperFacial" play with ideas of the spectacular, glamour and faciality. Drawings based on images of spa treatments, facebook profiles, fashion magazines, and entertainment websites ask the question "how do we look at faces?" "what happens when we don't recognize something as a face?" and "what do faces mean to us?" The drawings are based on subtracting the original context from the found images. They are drawn, masked, sprayed with ink before adding the final details. Other drawings are plainly rendered in color pencil and meant to be in dialogue with each other as part of a larger installation.

Hill was initially inspired to make this series after attending a friend's wedding reception at a New Orleans' mansion on Halloween eve. Guests were asked to wear masks. Since he couldn't read the social cues given while speaking or reacting to speech, the artist found interacting with the masked guests confusing and exciting. He felt this accidental social experiment gave the artist both a sense of glamour and invisibility, allowing his disguised face to be read in ways unfamiliar to him.

For "SuperFacial" Hill finds parallels to this process of masquerade on social networking sights, celebrity discussion forums, and even in the act of how the public interpretation of art is a private act done in public. Hill views his works and installation as both artworks and documentation of his thematic explorations.

According to the artist, "I think about the gallery as a theatrical space in the disguise of a 'gallery show.' I try to include multiple voices and images, so that I represent many sides of a personality or many takes on an idea. I am not interested in concluding meaning. I'm interested in generating multiple responses, and sometimes that creates confusion. I like to think of it as creative confusion. I am fully confident that viewers will make the meaning themselves. Or better yet suspend meaning until it's a pleasurable ache. That's what makes it fun."

Ryan Hill is a Los Angeles born, Washington, DC based artist who also writes and performs. He earned a Master's degree in studio art from the California Institute of the Arts and a Master's degree in film and television from University of California. His drawing installations have been shown in Los Angeles, CA, New York City, NY, Washington, DC, and Melbourne, Australia. He has performed at colleges and art

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spaces including the L.A. County Museum of Art and LAX><ART in Los Angeles, White Box Gallery in New York, and Sculpture Center in Long Island NY, and P.S.1 Contemporary Arts Center in Long Island City, NY. Hill currently teaches drawing and painting courses at George Washington University, serves on the Board of Directors for the arts organization Transformer in Washington, DC, and organizes public education programs and at the Hirshhorn Museum & Sculpture Garden.

Killing Me Softly by Lindsey Raymond

Civilian is thrilled to present the thesis work of talented emerging artist, Lindsey Raymond. Showing her work for the first time in a gallery outside of college, Raymond presents a series of hand crocheted, sewn, and embroidered artworks. An exploding head, a zombie, a chainsaw, and knives dripping red shiny sequined blood down the wall exude this young artists skill and playfulness. She turns craft on its ear through unpredictable and intriguing works combining a homespun tradition with horror that results in humor.



According to the artist, "by using soft materials, the work becomes more approachable and accessible to the viewer through it's inviting tangibility. The unconventional methods of my work surprise the viewer and play a role in altering our perspectives of not only horror, but domestic craft as well."

Raymond graduates from the Corcoran College of Art & Design in May 2010. Her work has been included in exhibitions in the Corcoran Gallery of Art as well as at the Smithsonian Craft Fair at the National Building Museum.

More images can be found at www.civilianartprojects.com. High-resolution JPEG images are available upon request. Exhibition hours are Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday 1-6pm, Friday 4-8pm and by appointment set up 24 hours in advance.