

CIVILIAN

ART PROJECTS

MEDIA ADVISORY

June 10, 2007

CONTACT:

Jayme McLellan: 202-347-0022



KEN ASHTON



LILY COX-RICHARD

Opening Reception:

Friday, June 15, 2007 – 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

On Exhibit:

June 15 – July 20, 2007

Civilian Art Projects proudly presents two concurrent solo exhibitions: Ken Ashton's *Megalopolis* and Lily Cox-Richard's *At Stake and Rider*. Through distinct projects, Ashton and Cox-Richard consider the American landscape, national identity and mythologized America.

Washington, D.C. based photographer **Ken Ashton** began *Megalopolis* in 1996 as a photographic exercise to document the cities and connecting towns along the East Coast. An evolving, work in progress, today *Megalopolis* is a project of thousands of images of a variety of focus that highlight the shadows and grit of the city specifically its boarded up store-fronts and buildings, fenced off properties and backyards, run-down neighborhoods, iconographic graffiti, and quirky human markings decorating the land. For the exhibition, Ashton distilled this project into twenty-six images. Illustrating Ken's unique way of seeing, these images document the sameness of the city's iconic landscape while taking the viewer on a journey into its uniqueness. The project, now entering its second decade, is an historic visual document marking the passing of time and place in America as witnessed in the travels of one man.

Ken's work can be found in private collections including the Museum of Contemporary Photography, The Corcoran Gallery of Art and George Washington University. His work has been featured in exhibitions at the Corcoran Museum; the Goethe-Institute; and Second Street Gallery in Charlottesville, VA. Publications include *Common Ground: Discovering Community in 150 Years of Art*, *Selections from the Collection of Julia J. Norrell Collection* and *Reflections in Black: A History of Black Photographers, 1840 To The Present* by Deborah Willis. Ashton is currently working on a book called *Megalopolis*.

An exhibition of photographers who have inspired Ashton's work will be on view in Civilian's office until July 20th. Artists included in this "Inspirers" exhibition include William Christenberry, Bruce Davidson, John Gossage and Ken Schles.

Lily Cox-Richard creates contemporary sculptural installations by mediating cultural material and folk traditions. According to the artist, her departure point for art making begins at the moment when commemoration begins to dwarf original experience. Projects have included hand cut linoleum floors based on aerial images of her family's farm; a life-sized scrap book page for gallery visitors to walk into and be

406 7th STREET NW, THIRD FLOOR, WASHINGTON DC, 20004

202-607-3804 / WWW.CIVILIANARTPROJECTS.COM

CIVILIAN

ART PROJECTS

photographed; and a screen-painted dwelling created in homage to the East Baltimore folk tradition.

In the gallery's project space, Lily presents a sculptural installation based on the stake-and-rider fence, also known as the Virginia rail or zigzag fence. The installation commemorates an American invention that according to architectural historian Vanessa E. Patrick originated "in the Virginia colonies, and traveled west with the frontier. Composed of stacked, self-supporting rails, the stake-and-rider rail fence was perfectly suited to a land rich in timber and open space. It requires no joinery, nails, milling, or digging postholes. Easily built, these fences can be readily dismantled and reassembled elsewhere." The fence, with a surface transformed with white plaster, green paint, mica and crushed glass, has been reconfigured from her candidacy exhibition into a thirty-five rail fence for the site at Civilian Art Projects.

Lily's work has been exhibited at the Archinofsky Gallery in Las Vegas, NV; the Soap Factory in Minneapolis, MN; Platteform Arts in Denver, CO; Southern Exposure in San Francisco, CA; McLean Project for the Arts in Virginia; Transformer in Washington, DC; and the California College of the Arts in San Francisco, CA. She received her BFA from the California College of Art and is pursuing her MFA in Sculpture at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Megalopolis and *At Stake and Rider* open on June 15, 2007 and will be on view until July 20, 2007. A public reception will be held for the artists on Friday, June 15th from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Exhibition hours are Wednesday through Saturday from 12:00 to 6:00 p.m. and by appointment. An essay by writer Casey Smith will accompany the exhibitions.

ABOUT CIVILIAN

Opening in December 2006, Civilian was created to support a core base of talented, professional artists in need of formal representation to sell their work and propel their careers forward. These artists work in a variety of media including painting, sculpture, video, site-specific installation, photography and sound. Civilian promotes the artists' work and career through exhibitions and collaborative projects with curators, activists, writers, and other change makers. Civilian's gallery is located in Chinatown/Penn Quarter, in downtown Washington, DC just blocks from the U.S. Capitol and several major museums.

For more information on the artists or the gallery please contact Civilian Art Projects at 202-347-0022 or info@civilianartprojects.com. Please visit the website at www.civilianartprojects.com.