

For immediate release

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**The Moment.
The Backdrop.
The Persona.**

Opening Reception: Friday, Nov 7, 2014, 7-9pm

Hours: Wed – Fri, 1-5pm, other times by appt

On view through September 26, 2015

Art Basel Miami Beach Hours: Dec 3 – 7, 2014,

Wed-Fri: 9am-5pm; Sat-Sun, 9am-1pm

ABMB Artist + Curator Brunch:

Sat, Dec. 6, 9am-1pm

October 28, 2014 - Fort Lauderdale –

The Moment. The Backdrop. The Persona. is an examination of the uses of narrative in contemporary art from the collection of Francie Bishop Good and David Horvitz. The exhibition of works in drawing, painting, video and new media reveal the continued power of storytelling in art today, and the myriad forms it takes.

The desire on the part of the artist to tell a story, and on the part of the viewer to glean one - in painting, photography, video, performance and more - is irresistible to the human spirit. To recognize the prevalence of narrative in art of the moment, Girls' Club presents ***The Moment. The Backdrop. The Persona.***, an exhibition of works by more than thirty artists from the collection of Francie Bishop Good and David Horvitz that invite the viewer to experience a singular isolated moment, an evocative backdrop or a deeply imagined character, sometimes a combination of two or more. Mostly the work of female contemporary artists, many of the stories channel archetypal narratives from mythology and fairy tales. Others examine contemporary relationships across a vast range from sober examinations of self and environment to high melodramas.

Nowadays, it's difficult to escape the powerful narrative force of the cinema, which is a universal visual and verbal vocabulary for conveying meaning, delving into character, exploring place. Narratives from the movies and television and video games flow in and out of our consciousness on a daily basis via the stationary and hand-held devices that are our constant companions. Since the advent of MTV, the enjoyment of music has relied upon an accompanying narrative to provide programmatic support to the sound.

Contemporary narrative forms have lately been reinvigorated by the obsession with self, avatars and role playing, nostalgia, dreams, science fiction, and documentary, among others. Painting has become the arena for developing detailed fantasy landscapes that have an episodic quality, such as Lisa Sanditz's *If you didn't know it's the Swiss Alps, you might believe you're there* (2003).

Narrative art predates human literacy, and early forms included examples of simultaneous story elements occurring all at once across a single image. Is it this primitive simultaneous structure at work in Su En Wong's *Limelight/Caribbean Coast* (2006) or is it the necessary effect of technological advances in image production, duplicates flying off the copy machine? Ida Applebroog's works from the



Lisa Sanditz, *If you didn't know it's the Swiss Alps, you might believe you're there*, 2003, Mixed media on canvas

1980s converted the picture plane into a storyboard, inserting characters and actions into individual frames. Still other artists incorporate text in their works, such as Sophie Calle's *Exquisite Pain*, in which dialogue and ideas of impure authorship are addressed.

The look and feel of documentary is persuasive in Rosemary Laing's *One dozen unnatural disasters in the Australian landscape (#2)* (2003), but her imagery depends on the deliberate staging of her subjects against luminous backgrounds to craft compelling, open-ended narratives. La Toya Ruby Frazier's documentation of her hometown of Braddock, Pennsylvania is a personal history that reverberates with larger social and historical themes.

Artists

Nina Chanel Abney	Jackie Gendel	Christina Pettersson
Ida Applebroog	Kate Gilmore	Paco Pomet
Leandra Arvazzetti	Aramis Gutierrez	Faith Ringgold
Hernan Bas	Marcella Hackbardt	Lisa Sanditz
Sanford Biggers	Jane Hammond	Alessandra Sanguinetti
Leah Brown	Mona Hatoum	Kanako Sasaki
Delia Brown	Vera Iliatova	Onajide Shabaka
Sophie Calle	Chantal Joffe	Dasha Shishkin
Amy Cutler	Rosemary Laing	Carolyn Swiszc
Melanie Daniel	Natalya Laskis	Alison Elizabeth Taylor
Scott Daniel Ellison	Jillian Mayer	Su-en Wong
LaToya Ruby Frazier	Wangechi Mutu	Katharina Wulff
Anna Gaskell	Lori Nix	

Programming

Special programming exploring the ongoing relationship between contemporary art and narrative composition will be presented through the year and will include artists talks, workshops, film screenings, readings and other events involving the public in the dynamic occupation of storytelling.

Art Basel Miami Beach Events

As the art world flocks south for the winter for Art Basel Miami Beach Week, Girls' Club welcomes visitors with **Extended Morning and Weekend Hours**. Open 9am-5pm Wednesday, December 3 – Friday, December 5, and 9am-1pm on Saturday and Sunday, December 6 -7.

On Saturday, December 6 from 9am-1pm, Art Basel Miami Beach VIPs, guests and the general public are invited to the annual **Artist and Curator Brunch**. Visitors can enjoy a casual brunch buffet with mimosas, fruit salad, and breakfast treats while popping in on informal tours and talks with *The Moment*. *The Backdrop*. *The Persona* curators and artists. Cuban breakfast treats and coffee beverages provided by Colada House, a local Cuban coffee house and bakery.

Once again this year, Girls' Club will be publishing the **Girls' Guide to ABMB**, an online listing highlighting contemporary female artists, writers and curators making an impact in the hyper-active Art Basel Miami beach season. The guide serve as resource for the week-long torrent of exhibitions, events, and fair activities with a spotlight on curated tours, public talks and discussions, film screening and open studios.

Multi-Disciplinary Events during Last Saturday Artwalks

Beginning in January 2015, Girls' Club will join the monthly art walk event in Flagler Village and FATVillage, opening to the public each **Last Saturday** of the month from 6-10pm with special events and inter-disciplinary presentations.

In collaboration with Thinking Cap Theatre, a non-profit, Fort Lauderdale-based theatre company, Girls' Club will present an evening of experimental theatre with a series of short plays and monologues inspired by the works in exhibition **January 31, 2015**. Plot, setting and character will come into a pinpoint focus as local playwrights, actors and dancers take on *The Moment*. *The Backdrop*. *The Persona*.

Artists in Action! talks and limited editions

In Spring 2015, Girls' Club continues its innovative program Artists in Action!, inviting four local artists from the collection to give public talks and demonstrations. **Leah Brown, Natalya Laskis, Christina Pettersson** and **David Rohn** will share their inspirations and unique creative processes with the public, free of charge, sparking lively discussion. At each event, Girls' Club will present an affordable limited edition artist multiple for sale. Editions are created specifically for the Artists in Action! in program and create new opportunities for emerging collectors and artists to forge connections and cultivate support.

Visiting Artist Series

As part of its Visiting Artists series, Girls' Club welcomes contemporary artists from beyond South Florida to interact with the local community. Painter and video artist **Carolyn Swiszc** from West St. Paul Minnesota, and New York-based painter **Lisa Sanditz** will visit Girls' Club to present a public talk about their work and creative process and lead workshops for artists and Girls' Club outreach partners.

The Catalog

Designed by Jill Weisberg, of Schrift & Farbe Design Group, the catalog will document the exhibition featuring reproductions of the artwork and sweeping installation views, with an introduction by the curators Michelle Weinberg and Sarah Michelle Rupert, essays by prominent national and local writers, a chapbook of poems from writer in residence Laura McDermott inspired by the exhibit and four artist interventions.

Events:

Friday, Nov 7, 2014, 7-9pm

Opening Reception

Girls' Club premieres its annual exhibition with an evening wine reception.

Wednesday – Friday, Dec 3-5, 9am-5pm & Saturday, Sunday December 6-7, 9am-1pm

Extended Morning and Weekend Hours

Opening at 9am throughout the week of Art Basel Miami Beach, Girls' Club extends normal open hours, welcoming out of town visitors, guests and the local community with increased access to the exhibition *The Moment*. *The Backdrop*. *The Persona*.

Saturday, Dec 6, 2014, 9am-1pm

ABMB Artist and Curator Brunch

The public is invited to visit *The Moment*. *The Backdrop*. *The Persona*. with informal tours and talks from curators Michelle Weinberg and Sarah Michelle Rupert while enjoying light refreshments and Sunday brunch.

Saturday, January 31, 6-10pm

Experimental Theatre Performance and Artwalk

Joining the area's monthly artwalk, Girls' Club presents an experimental evening of theatre and visual art in collaboration with Thinking Cap Theatre.

Saturday, Feb 7, 2015, 5-9pm

Third Avenue Annual ArtWalk

Each year, Girls' Club and the studios of the [Third Avenue Art District](#) in Fort Lauderdale open their private spaces of creation to the public.

Saturday, February 28, 6-10pm

Guest Exhibit at the Girls' Club Annex Space

Exhibition of work from recent MFA graduates from Florida Atlantic University titled *Confluence* which showcases the works of Linda Behar, Misoo Flian, Raheleh Filsoofi, Stephen Futej, Isabel Gouveia, and Kandy G Lopez.

March - June 2015

Artists in Action! at Girls' Club

Artist talks and affordable limited editions from local artists Leah Brown, Natalya Laskis, Christina Pettersson and David Rohn Each artist will share their inspirations, creative processes and career trajectories with the public.

About Girls' Club

Founded in 2006 by artist Francie Bishop Good and her husband David Horvitz, Girls' Club is a 501(c)3 foundation and alternative space, the only private collection in the world dedicated to exhibiting contemporary art by women. Cutting edge works in painting, drawing, photography and video are presented in curated, thematic exhibitions which also include works loaned from other collectors, and from galleries and artists. Artists represented in the Good/Horvitz collection are a diverse body of women - and some men - representing many ethnicities and nationalities. Girls' Club's facility is a dynamic, multi-functional building created by award-winning designer Margi Nothard of Glavovic Studio in Fort Lauderdale.

Girls' Club's mission is to educate the public, nurture the careers of female artists, and to serve as a resource for art students and scholars, curators, and practicing artists. A special commitment is made to expose the work of local artists to a broader national and international audience. Girls' Club's website features a working online artist database with biographical information and relevant web links on artists in the collection, facilitating further study on the works and careers of contemporary women artists. Web projects by artists, interviews and texts by writers and a blog extends the presence of Girls' Club onto the worldwide web.

Girls' Club is also committed to changing the lives of individuals in Broward County, and our programming reflects the special needs of women and girls. Girls' Club offers specialized workshops and activities in a variety of media for artists of all levels and abilities, and for children and families.

More information at www.girlsclubcollection.org.

High resolution image available upon request.



girls' club

girlsclubcollection · org

117 NE 2nd Street · Fort Lauderdale · FL 33301

open: Wed – Fri 1–5pm · other times by appointment

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