



Silver Eye Center for Photography
1015 East Carson Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15203
412.431.1810

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Contact: Amanda Bloomfield

Email: abloomfield@silvereve.org

Art and Science Meet at Silver Eye's Latest Exhibition

(Pittsburgh, PA) Silver Eye Center for Photography proudly presents ***Proof: Photographs by Caleb Charland*** on view **December 5, 2007 – February 2, 2008**. This exhibition features 17 black-and-white photographs by Fellowship 2007 award recipient **Caleb Charland** of Brewer, Maine. Charland transforms everyday household objects into unexpected demonstrations of art and science. By using fire, water, magnets and power tools, he finds a balance between stunning pyrotechnics and quiet compositions. Ten Honorable Mention photographers are exhibiting one picture each. **New Gallery Hours: Wednesday, Noon – 6:00 p.m., Thursday, Noon – 8:00 p.m., Friday, Noon – 6:00 p.m., Saturday, 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. or by appointment.**

Proof: Photographs by Caleb Charland is an exhibition of images selected by Katherine Ware, Curator of Photographs at the Philadelphia Museum of Art's Alfred Stieglitz Center for Photography in the Department of Prints, Drawings, and Photographs. A total of 282 Silver Eye members from 32 states and 2 foreign countries competed for a \$5,000 fellowship award as well as this juried exhibition at Silver Eye Center for Photography. Fellowship 2007 follows seven highly successful competitions and is made possible through the generosity of The Heinz Endowments.

The **Artist Talk and Opening Reception** will take place on Saturday, December 8, 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. Reception will begin immediately following Caleb Charland's talk. Refreshments will be served. Admission is free. 1015 East Carson Street, South Side.

Charland laboriously arranges household objects such as candles, string, matches, power tools, needles, and magnets into magical and unique compositions. He utilizes the elements of water, air and fire in photographs that depict a process that is both scientific and artistic. Each demonstration, like an experiment, is strategically developed, implemented and ultimately photographed. In Charland's artist statement he explains, "I utilize everyday objects and fundamental forces to illustrate my own experiences with wonder. Each piece begins with a simple question (How would this look? Is that possible? What would happen if...) and develops through a process of experimentation. By establishing physical parameters first, I discover each idea's visual potential. This allows the natural properties of the subject matter to inform my aesthetic decisions as I construct these arenas to reveal the phenomena."

Charland's images of demonstrations include a dripping candle being dramatically blown by a mist of WD-40 (*Demonstration with WD-40*, 2007); a magnet pulling needles like spokes of a bicycle wheel in a still container of water (*North Pole with Needles and Water*, 2006) and the quiet arrangement of water in its three states (*Solid Liquid Gas*, 2006).

Part magic, part science, Charland's compositions bring to mind photographic and scientific predecessors, Dr. Harold Edgerton (1903 – 1990) who transformed the mundane by

capturing a bullet speeding through an apple and a strobe lit milk drop coronet and Eadweard Muybridge (1830 – 1904) who used multiple cameras to catch motion undetectable to the human eye.

Caleb Charland uses a 4" x 5" large format camera. The silver gelatin prints are also selenium toned for permanence. Toning is a photographic process used on silver-based (black-and-white) photographic prints to improve the chemical stability of the print and allow it to last longer. Selenium toning is the most popular of the archival toning processes, converting metallic silver to silver selenide. Curator, Katherine Ware, explains in her juror statement, "Charland's tabletop experiments share an affinity with the chemical enterprise of darkroom photography – both are elemental, a little dangerous, and magical. The tacit subject matter – Charland's slightly inadvisable tinkering with household items and the laws of nature – is hardly an obvious one, yet the fabricated nature of the project is balanced by the utter simplicity of elements pictured and the luminosity of the presentation."

Artist Biography:

Growing up in rural Maine, Caleb Charland spent much of his childhood helping his father remodel their family homes. These experiences instilled an awareness of the potential for the creative use of materials and the ability to fabricate his visions. Charland graduated with departmental honors from the Massachusetts College of Art in 2004. Charland now lives and works in Maine and credits several sources of inspiration for this work including children's books of science experiments, E.J. Marey, Fischli & Weiss, Jasper Johns and Tom Friedman. Charland is represented by Susan Maasch Fine Art, Portland, Maine and may be reached at calebcharland@hotmail.com. Selected exhibitions include: South Cobb Arts Alliance, Mableton, Georgia (2007); Rome Art Coterie 5th National Juried Exhibition, Rome, Georgia (2007); Light Night 2007 Art and Cultural Festival, Reykjanes, Iceland (2007); Turchin Center for the Visual Arts, Boone, North Carolina (2007); Miami University Art Museum, Oxford, Ohio (2007); Slocumb Galleries, East Tennessee State University (2007); Wall Space Seattle, Seattle, Washington (2007); The Smithsonian Institution's S. Dillon Ripley Center, Washington, DC (2006); galerie-sei-un-do, Zurich, Switzerland (2006); Lancaster Museum of Art, Lancaster, PA (2006); and Danforth Museum of Art, Framingham, MA (2005).

Ten Honorable Mention Photographers:

Bremner Benedict, Newton, Massachusetts
Rita Bernstein, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Richard Colburn, Cedar Falls, Iowa
Adam Davies, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Aaron Hobson, Saranac Lake, New York

Priya Kambli, Kirksville, Missouri
Annie Lopez, Phoenix, Arizona
Lydia Panas, Kutztown, Pennsylvania
Ursula Sokolowska, Chicago, Illinois
Steve Stenzel, Saint Paul, Minnesota

To request an interview with Caleb Charland or any of the other exhibiting photographers and/or a CD with images, please call Amanda Bloomfield at 412/431.1810, ext. 12 or email her at abloomfield@silvereye.org.

Programming in conjunction with this exhibition includes professional development classes for photographers such as **Why Should I Have a Web site?** on Tuesday, January 8, 7:00 –

8:30 p.m., **Marketing Concepts for Photographers** on Wednesday, January 23, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. and **Portfolio Reviews** on Saturday, February 2, 9:00 – 12:30 p.m.

Fellowship 2007 is made possible by a generous grant from The Heinz Endowments. Broadcast media sponsorship is kindly provided by WYEP/91.3 FM.

Silver Eye Center for Photography is generously supported by the Allegheny Regional Asset District, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, The Grable Foundation, The Heinz Endowments, The Pittsburgh Foundation, The A.W. Mellon Charitable Trust of the Pittsburgh Foundation, an anonymous donor, other local foundations and corporations, and our members.

The mission of Silver Eye Center for Photography is to serve the public through exposure to a wide range of work by locally, nationally and internationally recognized photographers. A Pittsburgh institution since 1985, Silver Eye Center for Photography is the oldest non-profit organization in Western Pennsylvania dedicated solely to the understanding, appreciation, education, and promotion of photography as an art form and as an expressive form of visual communication.

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