

HUDSON VALLEY CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY ART
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chris Jones : HVCCA Artist-in-Residence Spring 2008

Exhibition Opening Sunday May 18th, 2008

Artist talk 4:00pm with reception to follow



Chris Jones, Seasons Don't Fear the Year, 2007, Images and glue, 97 cm X 200 cm X 67 cm,
Courtesy of Galerie Martin van Zomeren (Amsterdam)

Peekskill NY — The Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art is pleased to announce the exhibition opening of the museum's Spring Artist-in-Residence Chris Jones on Sunday May 18th, 2008. There will be an artist talk and image presentation at 4:00pm with a reception to follow. Chris Jones began his three-month residency in February 2008, during which he has worked directly in HVCCA's mezzanine gallery to produce intricate site-specific sculptural installations. The results of his residency will be combined with examples of recent work and will be on view through August 17th, 2008.

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ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

Chris Jones creates sculptures that hover between the fantastical and the mundane, composed of images from magazines, calendars, encyclopedias and posters.

Jones' life-size recreation of a motorcycle for example is reminiscent of a creation from Mad Max, at once retro and futuristic, beautiful and frightening, exquisitely detailed and fragmented. These polar positions make us look at this familiar object anew. It resonates strongly with the language of movies and advertisements, but at the same time Jones allows in much broader possibilities without imposing answers.

During his residency at the HVCCA, Jones has lived in Peekskill creating a new group of works, piecing together local stories, history and terrain. These have all filtered into the work via personal and idiosyncratic connections, building up incrementally to form scenes that reference these immediate surroundings.

The full size horse and stagecoach that forms the main piece in the show is his most ambitious work to date. This is an image that is at once universal and at the same time very American – having permeated the world via television and film to become an icon of the 'American Old West'. Inspired by an historical photograph of a coach and horses passing through Peekskill, the piece resonates with a history of 19th century American travel, with folklore, and a local history of horse farms, conjuring up a manifestation of the past that appears in the gallery space like a spectral apparition.

Jones work reminds that everything around us comes with a deeply embedded history and a multitude of stories to tell– that is, if we pay close enough attention.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Chris Jones was born in Preston, England 1975 and currently lives and works in London. He received his Masters in Fine Art from Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design, London in 2002 and his Bachelors of Art from the University of Central Lancashire, Preston in 2000.

Forthcoming exhibitions include Jones' second solo show at Galerie Martin van Zomeren, Amsterdam in 2008. Recent 2007 exhibitions include Bird Watching De Vishal, Haarlem and A Song Turning Inward, OneTwenty Gallery, Ghent, Belgium. In 2003 Jones was commissioned by fashion house KENZO Paris for the launch of the new Pont Neuf flagship store, and was awarded the Red Mansion Art Prize, resulting in a two-month residency in Kun-Ming, China. Chris is represented by Galerie Martin van Zomeren in Amsterdam.

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