

Boom Chicka Pop – The Community School at the Baltimore Museum of Art 6-1-2016



Family Safari



Miss Pretty



Seminole Wind



A Unique Truck

“Family Safari” is a symbolic representation of **Janiah Tillery's** own family and home. The lions are her grandparents for instance, and the van represents other people, traveling through. Each animal has its own color, that comes from Janiah's personal feelings towards that color, and that person. The composition is hierarchical and structured, with the grandparents being on top and herself, modestly, at the bottom. Janiah is a natural storyteller that has used the tools of color, composition and metaphor to tell the story of her own family situation in this creative piece. However, we can enjoy the work even without knowing the exact meaning Janiah has for every decision made.

The work “Seminole Wind” by **Chris White**, shows a traditional image, a cabin in the woods. The paint is applied smoothly and the colors carefully mixed to the precise shade and hue before applying. In combination with a carefully crafted composition, the result is reminiscent of an abstract modern painting giving a sense of eternity and stability to a vibrantly colored night. Though focusing on line, rather than surface, Chris's drawings show the same consistent combination of certainty and patience. In his work, subtle attention to the material, composition and color in combination with stereotypical masculine images of country life, farms, trucks and hunting scenes, has a unique and disarming charm.



Life



Brownie

India Smith's “Life” shows a somewhat distorted human figure, or silhouette, a figure that could be anyone. Yet, in it's shape she placed in words and tiny symbols, her own interests, feelings and thoughts, the things that make every person unique. One can follow her thought process through this mental map and get to know India up close. The two very different “Brownie” drawings show India's talent for simultaneously capturing a likeness and using the material to give a unique emotional charge to her subject. In her “anatomy studies” of her invented character “Charlie” we can see how much fun it can be to play with and distort basic human anatomy rules and elements.



Zulu Warrior

Dyrell Moon's “Zulu Warrior” is a perfect example of the artists' eye for detail and variation. Starting from basic anatomy of the human head, Dyrell adds different materials, colors, shapes, inspired by traditional African ceremonial masks. Along with the work “Mama” it draws from personal background and interests. Dyrell has proven himself a born storyteller, both in the physical artworks and in presenting and explaining them in person. With “Mama” Dyrell doesn't seem very



Mama

concerned with correct representation, however, in the powerful lines, subtle grays and balanced composition we can clearly see Dyrrells dedication and love for his subject.



Billy Goat Gruff

Vernon Laumann's "Billy Goat Gruff" came out of basic human anatomy lessons to which he, through association, added details: hair, teeth ears. The result reminded Vernon of the "Billy Goat Gruff", which became it's title, more as an afterthought than as a result he has been working towards. At the same time it is just one of many interpretations possible to the characteristic folk-tale-ish demon-like character that sprung from Vernon's imagination. Vernon's other piece "New Beginnings" is a remarkably balanced painting of an archetypical bird sitting in front of a dark background. Creating a subtle play of lines, surfaces and shades, the painting shows how much can be achieved with very little.



New Beginnings



Saw

Starting from basic anatomy of the human head, clay and love for horror, **Mikey Poe** set to work without anything particular in mind. The smooth surface, created by repetitive gestures, shows a patience and attention. However the image that he made is creepy, and the colors are disturbing. With "Home" Mikey shows inventiveness and a talent achieving a lot with very little. The sky is just a blue line ate the top, the house seems dug into the ground. However, the composition is strict and balanced, and the colors are bright and radiant blue, green, red and the white of the paper.



Home



My girl

The image of a woman or girl, a portrait of a female figure, can take many forms as **Daj'a White** shows in her work. In the thoughtful work "My Girl" the paint is subtly applied in smooth opaque surfaces and contrasted with a rougher, more organic transparency of the skin. The colors are patiently mixed and composed. The other work "Crazy Eyes" shows a completely different figure, more cartoonist and absurd, with an almost opposite energy and emotion. Never specifying who the women are, leaving that open to the viewer, Daj'a just as easily puts her feelings in paintings of butterflies, fish and abstract work, through color, material and gestures.



Crazy Eyes



Forgotten Meaning

Marcus McKeever's "Forgotten Meaning" shows a city, a neighborhood, a block of houses. One of the houses stands out, and is explicitly different. Marcus said that he wanted to make this piece, but could not exactly remember why, only what sparked the idea: the exhibition Home at the BMA. A thoughtful piece, that reflects a process of feeling, forgetting, remembering. Is the neighborhood forgotten, are houses forgotten too? Perhaps the image is a metaphor for standing out from the crowd?



After a hard day of plugging



Forest



Grandpa Jacket

Though many of **Donald Lacy's** works have personal or pop-cultural origins, for “Forest” he has chosen a somewhat untypical traditional subject, for him. However, in the off-colors and variety of paint application we can see his sense of humor and hard to contain creative energy, giving the work an intriguing contrast. Donald's other piece “Grandpa's Jacket” shows how even with limited means of only black paint a lot of expression and meaning can be given to everyday subject matter. In his clay sculpture Donald combines different characteristics to create a brilliantly shaped and detailed head.



Stoop Stories



Untitled

Sadie Greenwood either makes idealized landscape and symbols or explicitly socially engaged work, drawing from her own surroundings and neighborhood. “Stoop Stories” is inspired by the fact young black men losing their lives at ever younger ages because of drugs and gun violence. A pleasant, loosely balanced composition and harmonious inoffensive coloring of smooth surfaces lures the viewer in, and then focuses attention towards urgent and real issues such as... making “Stoop Stories” a powerful piece of art.



Untitled



Eliza-Jo

Through **Kelsey Larrimore's** deceptively plainly titled work “Untitled” we see her thoughts, environment and interests up close: Baltimore, make-up, social media, her friends. The symbols and words are spread around piece by piece, like a room or a space of her own. In “Eliza-Jo” we see Kelsey's niece and a mini-mouse toy. The girl has her back towards us, she is looking at the toy and the toy is looking our way. We are observers and we are being observed, from the day we are born. Taken from a photograph Kelsey shifted the composition to give the scene a strange mystery, in what for some people would perhaps be just another everyday moment.



Baltiman



Baltiman

The origin of **Jordan Leon's** “Baltiman” is color, and more specifically the colors orange and purple. He projected this on his own image, to make a “self-portrait” called Baltiman. The colors orange and purple have been a continuous reoccurring motive throughout a variety of different works Jordan has made. Baltiman is perhaps the ultimate self-portrait a sports enthusiast like Jordan can make. Though face and features are drawn in archetypes with an oversized brush, we clearly recognize Jordan in Baltiman's voluminous hair, applied with a thick layer of paint.



Nam



Senior El Ocho

Caleb Rohe's uses traditional themes like landscapes or pop-cultural images as starting points for his works. However, not so much interested in correct representation, he uses dirty rags, old brushes and sponges to apply the paint, sometimes in endlessly repetitive gestures. The result are diverse, unexpected and raw pieces to which he adds titles that reflect his sense of humor and a natural tendency to provoke and parody, showing a true artist mentality and physical approach to making art.



Cat wall



Confused Rabbit

“Cat Wall” by **Donavin Hooper** is a culmination of a remarkable process, and in a way is part of a series. Starting with the photograph of a cat, he drew, painted and re-drew and painted the image several times over in his recognizable method of fluid watered down black paint, where each time the “cat” slightly changed shape. At a certain point the morphing creature was a rabbit, and a cross between a rabbit and a cat. Some said it was dog. In this final piece, the cat-rabbit is inside a house, where through a window we can see a garden and swimming pool that sprung from the artist imagination. What will happen next?



Vernon Laumann 4



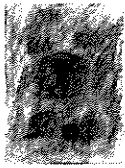
Mikey Poe



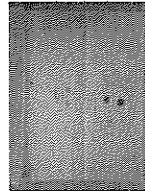
Donald Lacy



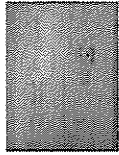
Dyrrell Moon



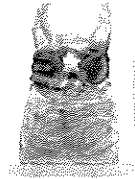
My Childhood – Caleb Rohe



Charlies – India Smith



Charlies – India Smith



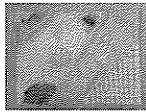
Donavin Hooper



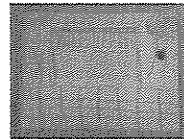
Sadie Greenwood



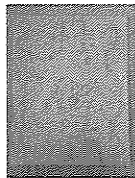
Brownie – India Smith



Sculpture Garden – Kelsey Larrimore



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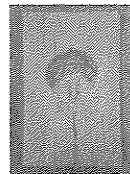
Life – India Smith



Daj'a White



Jordan – Donald Lacy



Donald Lacy



Donavin and Caleb in sculpture Garden – Donald Lacey



Donald Lacy