

3721 Washington Boulevard
St. Louis, MO 63108 USA

NEWS RELEASE

December 11, 2010

CHRISTINA SHMIGEL

January 21 – March 5, 2011

Opening Reception:

Friday, January 21, from 6 to 9 pm

Front Room: Shawn Burkard

Media Room: Eleanor Dubinsky

Media contact:
Bruno L. David, Director
Public Hours:
Wednesday through Saturday
10:00 am – 5:00 pm
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BRUNO DAVID GALLERY PRESENTS AN EXHIBITION BY CHRISTINA SHMIGEL

SAINT LOUIS, MO - Bruno David Gallery is pleased to present a solo-exhibition by Christina Shmigel entitled [This City, Daily Rising](#). Christina Shmigel's first solo US exhibition since 2005, is composed of three interrelated installations. Continually shifting between macro- and microcosmic views, the installations are emblematic of Shmigel's play with scale and size, intimacy and monumentality, and create for the viewer something of the vibrancy & intensity of Shanghai (China), the city where she now lives and works. There is much in this exhibition that springs from the local knowledge of Shanghai but also much that speaks to more universal themes. How do we decipher and interpret experience, making meaning amidst that which is foreign to us? How do we come to know the world thru association and memory and projection? And, most importantly, the question that has always been central to Shmigel's work, how do the inanimate things that we build and that we surround ourselves with, reveal the nature of our humanity?

In the tradition of European "wunderkammers" and Ming and Qing Dynasty curio boxes, the installations *Foreigner's Cabinet of Chinese Curiosities* is an idiosyncratic attempt to catalogue and preserve a culture through its material possessions. *The View In Fragments*, a gathering of seemingly abandoned glass vitrines, some empty, some containing expanded versions of the architectural structures found in the cabinet's drawers, continues Shmigel's archiving impulse. As in her St Louis work, here Shmigel preserves the architecture that the city's dwellers actively overlook. Dystopic white tiled buildings, blue pre-fab migrant worker housing, teetering rooftop pigeon coops: the vitrines present what is most uncelebrated is as though precious. *City in Which I Love You* echoes the materials and references of the cabinet and the vitrines but looks with a bird's eye view on the city, mimicking its ubiquitous building scaffolding, the pulsating color of its neon, its manic growth & temporality. In Italo Calvino's *Invisible Cities*, Kublai Khan suggests to Marco Polo that perhaps we take pleasure in a city not because of the question it answers, but because of the question it asks of us, "forcing [us] to answer".



In the **Front Room**, the gallery presents an installation/sculpture titled “ORANGES / MEGALITHIC” by **Shawn Burkard**. The sculpture is composed of 300 vinyl orange blocks representing a youth generated subculture, while Ancient Egyptian pyramids inspire the installation’s structure. The individual “Orange” block contour is derived from Shawn Burkard’s two-dimensional designs of “Letterless Alphabet” series along with works from the “Over and Over” exhibition. The compilation of past and present develop puzzling yet simple lines that create depth and volume in the work.



In the **Media Room**, the gallery presents *Touch the Sky*, a new video work by New York City based musician and multimedia performance artist **Eleanor Dubinsky**. She says: *Touch the Sky* is the visual expression of what happens to me physically, spiritually and emotionally as I release elements, relationships and ideas from my consciousness that no longer serve my best interest. The process of making this video is in itself an attempt to help myself release and let go of such elements, and, as I make it, I wonder if the piece’s existence as work of art will serve as some reminder or inspiration for others to do the same. The video *Touch the Sky* coincides with Dubinsky’s release of her CD, also entitled *Touch the Sky*, for radio airplay beginning January 2011. This is her third exhibition with the Bruno David Gallery.



Images above:

Christina Shmigel: Detail-Studio view, Shanghai, China

Christina Shmigel: “Cabinet” Detail, 2010

Shawn Burkard: “ORANGES/MEGALITHIC” (detail), 2010

Eleanor Dubinsky: Portrait by Rob Corley, Photo of portrait by Yvette Drury Dubinsky, 2010

OUR FIFTH SEASON 2010 – 2011 ART PROGRAM

KELLEY JOHNSON	September / October 2010
OVERPAPER	November / December 2010
CHRISTINA SHMIGEL	January / February 2011
PRINTS + MULTIPLES	March 12-19, 2011 (Group Exhibition)
HUNG LIU	March 2011 (Project Room)
CARMON COLANGELO	March / April 2011
LAURA BEARD	May / June 2011

ABOUT THE BRUNO DAVID GALLERY

Bruno David Gallery, is St. Louis' leading art gallery specializing in contemporary art and one of the most important places to see art in Saint Louis. The Gallery represents some of the best artists that Saint Louis has to offer, along with artists of national and international reputation. Located in a stunningly renovated industrial building in the Grand Center arts district, directly opposite the Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts and the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis. Bruno David Gallery’s art program has introduced new contemporary art to local gallery goers, and has been discussed in important art publications including, Art in America, Art Papers, ArtNet Magazine.

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