

**Juror's Statement**  
**Cleveland State University's 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Show**

The work selected for this show illustrates an authentic snapshot of Cleveland State University's unique and strong connection to the city and the diversity that lies within it. Technical and conceptual proficiency is prominent, with notably strong moments in Photography, Painting, and Sculpture, but student talent is apparent in all mediums across the board including Printmaking and Ceramics.

Myself, like most NEO natives with an ingrained "Defend Cleveland" point of view, may find it difficult to deny the state of Ohio's current conditions. While Ohio faces the 5<sup>th</sup> highest rate of unemployment in the nation and continues to set record high foreclosures, student concerns are apparent in their work which creates an authentic "art imitating life" event.

Many pieces within this exhibition are effective in illustrating our nation's socioeconomic climate and irresponsible consumer behavior, but human impact can also be analyzed by the liabilities on its natural surroundings. In many instances, the artists within this show allow the viewer to contemplate their own actions since the human figure is removed and the human footprint is present.

The conceptual framework behind Margaret Chern's *Mobile Home* triggers similar satirical conclusions as sculptor Duane Hanson. The simple but convincing ladder structure incorporated into this everyday consumer object leads the viewer to believe it's possible functionality. Could this shopping cart enable me to increased status through the means of consumption, or will these acts of needless purchases ultimately be the means to homelessness?

John Saile's landscape painting, *Ephemeral City*, echoes Odd Nerdrum's post-apocalyptic tactics and symbolism. Saile deliberately causes viewer confusion pertaining to the works' timeline, whether it exists in the past or future. We are left contemplating our present state and how our personal actions can aggravate or alleviate the empathy we may have for the innocuous and symbolic lamb.

Linda Herman's work may be small in scale, but her undeniable oil painting skills cannot go unnoticed. The peanuts-and-slugs purse entitled *Inheritance* strengthens and highlights this exhibition's underlying concerns about the region's economy. To offset the economic anxiety of the viewer, attendees can also enjoy the more lighthearted, surrealist inspired works represented, such as the painting *Cajun Aquatics*. This playful side is a welcoming and integral contrasting element to the exhibition.

Congratulations to the many artists that were selected for this exhibition and the award winners, but thank you to all that submitted work. Cleveland State University's students, Art Department Faculty, and Art Gallery Staff have come forward with yet another high quality student show. Thank you all for your dedication to the field of Visual Arts and for this rewarding opportunity to jury your 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Show.

Sincerely,

Kelly Urquhart  
[www.KellyUrquhart.com](http://www.KellyUrquhart.com)

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**Juror's Bio:**

In 2009 and 2010, Kelly Urquhart was selected to exhibit work in over 10 national and international juried exhibitions. Recent exhibitions include: the *24th International Juried Exhibition* at the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey juried by Susan Kismaric, Curator of Photography, Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY, *IMAGE/PROJECT* at the Arlington Arts Center juried by Taryn Simon, Guggenheim Fellow and Professional Artist/Photographer, and *Texas National 2009* at the Cole Art Center, Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, TX juried by Mel Chin. In 2007, Kelly received her MFA from Miami University in Oxford, OH. She is currently both living and working in Kent, Ohio with husband and collaborative art partner, Jaime Kennedy.