FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Amanda Mott
tel: 215-965-4068
cell: 267-259-8610
amott@moore.edu

Irene Cherkassky
tel: 215-965-8580
icherkassky@moore.edu

Facts, Fantasies and Fiction
Christian Curiel, Sarah McEneaney, Matthew Suib
October 26 – December 9, 2007

Preview Reception: Thursday, October 25, 6 to 8pm


Organized by The Galleries at Moore and curated by Lorie Mertes, Rochelle F. Levy Director and Chief Curator, Facts, Fantasies and Fiction opens with a public reception on Thursday, October 25 from 6 to 8pm and remains on view through December 9, 2007 in Moore's Goldie Paley Gallery.

Real, constructed and imagined narratives are presented in paintings and videos that depict scenes that hover between the boundaries of the recognizable and everyday to those found only in movies or in dreams. Each artist in the exhibition approaches narrative through very different portals; from autobiographical and highly imaginative scenes in the works by Sarah McEneaney and Christian Curiel, respectively, or, in the case of Matthew Suib, appropriated imagery from film. What unites the works is how each straddles the lines between depicting fact, fantasy and/or fiction.

Sarah McEneaney, Acupuncture 2006
**Sarah McEneaney** paints autobiographical narratives based on her everyday life and immediate surroundings: herself, her home, studio, and her Philadelphia neighborhood. Her works are influenced by narrative paintings from India and Early Renaissance art, and, despite the off-kilter perspective and bright-hued palette, her works poignantly capture the emotional and physical character of a particular situation or event, whether mundane or dramatic. A combination of observation and memory and imagination and embellishment, McEneaney’s paintings create a diaristic account of a person’s life.

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**Christian Curiel’s** large-scale paintings of figures involved in random acts invite viewers to access, imagine and re-live their childhood. At first glance, the activities and scenes in the paintings appear mundane, yet closer inspection reveals bizarre and mysterious acts being performed. Presented in isolation and non-sequentially, each captured moment provokes the viewer to unconsciously develop a narrative associated with the scene, imagining what came before and what happens next. These scenes, no matter how unreal, engage one’s individual sense of innocence versus malevolence depending upon personal experiences, memories and acts of curiosity from childhood.

(cont.)
Matthew Suib’s videos focus our attention on the relationship between cinema and history. Traditionally a media for telling stories and creating mythologies, cinema, is also a media that informs (or misinforms) our understanding of history and unknowingly shapes our perceptions of moving images put before us. From videos that draw from spaghetti westerns to Demille’s Ten Commandments from 1956, we are given images that are based in fiction but re-contextualized by the artist become provocative meditations on recent and current events and anti-war sentiments.

Related Programs:
Art for Lunch: Artist Talk by Sarah McEneaney
Tuesday, October 30, 11:45am – 12:30pm
Admission is free and open to the public

Art for Lunch: Artist Talk by Matthew Suib
Tuesday, November 13, 11:45am – 12:30pm
Admission is free and open to the public

About the Artists

Christian Curiel
New York-based artist Christian Curiel was born in Ponce, Puerto Rico to Cuban parents in 1977. He holds a BFA in painting from the International Fine Arts College in Miami and an MFA in painting from the Yale School of Art in New Haven, Connecticut. Curiel's works have been exhibited extensively in galleries and museums in the United States and abroad. Recent solo exhibitions include: David Castillo Gallery, Miami (2007) and Real Art Ways Center for Contemporary Culture, Hartford (2004). Group exhibitions include: Lehman Maupin Gallery, New York (2006); La Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris

(cont.)
Christian Curiel (cont.) (2005); The Americas Society, New York (2005); Massimo Audiello Gallery, New York (2005); White Box, New York (2004); Yale Art Gallery, New Haven, CT (2004); Museum of Contemporary Art, Washington, DC (2002); and the Bass Museum of Art, Miami Beach (2001). He is the recipient of an Oscar B. Cintas Fellowship Award (2005) and a Robert Schoelkopf Traveling Fellowship from Yale University School of Art (2004). Curiel is also a member of FeCuOp, a collaborative group based in Miami that experiments with social interactions and art.

Matthew Suib
Philadelphia-based artist Matthew Suib has exhibited installations, video and audio works and photographs nationally and internationally at venues including the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia; Kunsterweke, Berlin; Mercer Union, Toronto; The Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC; and PS1 Contemporary Art Center, New York. His most recent exhibitions include Locally Localized Gravity at the Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia (2007) and the 2007 Moscow Biennale. Also in 2007, Suib co-founded Screening, Philadelphia’s first gallery dedicated to the presentation of innovative and challenging works on video and film, with artist Nadia Hironaka. Screening is devoted to exploring ways that moving image culture influences one’s understanding and experience of the world. Suib is also a Pennsylvania Council on the Arts fellow, and a member of the Philadelphia artist collective Vox Populi, where he has exhibited since 2001. Suib holds a BFA with honors in photography from the University of the Arts, Philadelphia.

Sarah McEneaney
Sarah McEneaney attended college at Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and University of the Arts (formerly the Philadelphia College of Art), Philadelphia. Her works have been exhibited extensively with solo exhibitions at Tibor de Nagy Gallery, New York (2006); Gallery Schlesinger, New York (2004; also 2003, 2002, 2001); Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia (2004); Reynolds Gallery, Richmond, Virginia (2004); List Gallery, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania (2000); among others. She has received a number of prestigious grants and awards including: Academy of Arts and Letters Purchase Prize, multiple Yaddo Fellowships, Independence Foundation Fellowship in the Arts, Pew Fellowship in the Arts, and a Joan Mitchell Foundation Grant, to name a few. Her work is in the permanent collections of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design, Microsoft Corporation Collection, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Bryn Mawr College, State Museum of Pennsylvania, and the Cigna Museum. In 1996, she painted a 300-foot mural at 8th and Fairmount Streets in Philadelphia as well as a large mural on the side of a rowhouse at the intersection of Franklin and Diamond Streets in North Philadelphia. She was born in Munich, Germany.

About the Curator
Lorie Mertes has more than fifteen years of curatorial experience with a focus on international art of the 20th and 21st centuries. Prior to joining Moore as the Rochelle F. Levy Director and Chief Curator of The Galleries at Moore, Mertes served as Director of The Fabric Workshop and Museum from June to December 2006 where she oversaw the installation of exhibitions by Paul Chan and Jean Shin, as well as curating "Process and Collaboration: Celebrating Twelve Years at 1315 Cherry Street." Before coming to
Philadelphia, Mertes was Assistant Director for Special Projects/Curator at The Miami Art Museum (MAM) where she was a member of MAM’s curatorial and senior staff from 1994 to 2006. At MAM, Mertes curated numerous exhibitions featuring such artists as: Janine Antoni, Russell Crotty, Dara Friedman, Jim Hodges, Felix Gonzalez-Torres, Ann Hamilton, Alfredo Jaar, Vik Muniz, Oscar Munoz, Paul Pfeiffer, Miguel Angel Rios, James Rosenquist, George Segal, Shahzia Sikander, Lorna Simpson, and Bill Viola.

* Photos available on request

**The Galleries at Moore College of Art & Design**

For the past twenty years, The Galleries at Moore have provided a forum for exploring contemporary issues and ideas through the presentation of a diverse range of exhibitions and programs that offer insights into the work of established and emerging artists. As part of the programming offered in The Goldie Paley Gallery featuring the work of national and international artists, The International Discovery Series has featured the first US presentations of such artists as Artur Barrio, VALIE EXPORT, Terry Fox, Jörg Immendorff, and Roman Singer. The Levy Gallery for the Arts in Philadelphia highlights the work of artists and arts organizations based in Philadelphia. As venues serving America’s only art and design college for women, the Galleries have also presented exhibitions by such significant women artists and designers as Jo Baer, Janet Biggs, Dara Birnbaum, Mary Cassatt, Jay DeFeo, Viola Frey, Marlene Dumas, Jacqueline Matisse, Alice Neel, Karen Kilimnik, Carolee Schneemann and Hannah Wilke.

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**The Galleries at Moore**

Moore College of Art & Design  
20th Street and The Parkway  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1179

Contact: 215.965.4027 / galleries@moore.edu  
www.thegalleriesatmoore.org / www.moore.edu

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