DiverseWorks presents
L’esprit de l’escalier
June 29 – August 17, 2013
Opening Reception: Friday, June 28, 7 – 9 pm

(Houston, TX, June 4, 2013) – DiverseWorks is pleased to present L’esprit de l’escalier, an exhibition featuring works by members of DiverseWorks Artist Board, on view June 29 – August 17, 2013 with an opening reception on Friday, June 28 from 7 – 9 pm. Artist Board members included in this group exhibition are Lucinda Cobley, Jamal Cyrus, Sasha Dela, Lydia Hance, Hank Hancock, Trenton Doyle Hancock, John Harvey, Maria Cristina Jadick, Courtney D. Jones, Eric Leshinsky, Gabriel Martinez, Lynne McCabe, Katrina Moorhead, Gene Morgan, Mari Omori, Aaron Parazette, Robert A. Pruitt, Kellye Sanford, Leslie Scates, Hélène Schlumberger, Kelly Sears, and Damon Smith, along with collaborators Parham Daghighi, Sandy Ewen, Mark Hirsch, Zach Moser, jhon r. stronks, and June Woest.

The exhibition title, a French pun translated idiomatically as “staircase wit,” refers to the inevitable situation of finding oneself thinking of the perfect comeback to an argument too late. The retort, when removed from the context of its original instigation, has a tendency to lose its potency leading to incidences of regret and remorse. Through a wide variety of artistic strategies, the DiverseWorks Artist Board grapples with how words, events, or objects become dislocated or removed from their original context. The title provides the artists with a loose framework for the creation of new work (or the re-presentation of existing work) for this exhibition, which includes objects, text-works, moving image pieces, as well as a series of performative and literary events.

Highlights include:
• Opening night performance by Lynne McCabe: a live remembering and rewriting of a feminist performative history
• An exterior wheat paste mural created by Otabenga Jones & Associates (Jamal Cyrus and Robert A. Pruitt) juxtaposing a police car with Barnett Newman’s Broken Obelisk
• An interactive zine-making station by Gene Morgan and Hank Hancock
• A series of alabaster objects from Trenton Doyle Hancock’s personal collection adorned with phrases about life, love, and happiness
• The re-presentation of Katrina Moorhead’s sculptural piece, Donald Judd Box Used As A Shelf for An Adidas Box, 2006
• A new wall painting by Aaron Parazette

(more)
Related Programs and Performances: DiverseWorks on Wednesdays (DWOW), 6 – 8 pm:
- July 3: Shrimp Boil with Eric Leshinsky and Zach Moser
- July 10: A long distance conversation between Hélène Schlumberger and Sarah Hotchkiss and Carey Lin of San Francisco’s Stairwell’s, a curatorial project including a series of temporary exhibitions staged out of traditional gallery spaces and in transitional spaces like stairwells
- July 17: Sound performance by Damon Smith with Parham Daghighi and Sandy Ewen
- July 24: Improvisational duo performance by Leslie Scales and jhon r. stronks
- July 31: Dance duet by Lydia Hance and Courtney D. Jones
- August 7: Foodie event with John Harvey
- August 14: Slinging Ink – a live literary war of words

Support
DiverseWorks is generously supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Texas Commission on the Arts, the City of Houston through the Houston Arts Alliance, foundations, corporations, businesses, and individuals – including DiverseWorks Members.


In-Kind Season Sponsor: McCoy Workplace Solutions

Additional In-Kind Support: American Business Machines, Saint Arnold Brewing Company

About DiverseWorks
DiverseWorks is a non-profit art center in Houston, Texas dedicated to commissioning and presenting new visual, performing, and literary art. DiverseWorks is a place where the process of creating art is valued and where artists can test new ideas in the public arena. By encouraging the investigation of current artistic, cultural, and social issues, DiverseWorks builds, educates, and sustains audiences for contemporary art.

DiverseWorks
4102 Fannin, Suite 200
Houston, TX 77004
(entrance on Cleburne between Fannin and Main)
(713) 223-8346
Gallery Hours: Wednesdays, noon – 8 pm / Thursdays – Saturdays, noon – 6 pm / or by appointment
Admission is open to the public and FREE

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