

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DCAC presents Sparkplug exhibition:

L O O S E E N D S

Chajana DenHarder Joe Hale Chandi Kelley Matt Smith Dafna Steinberg

Curated by Deborah Anzinger

The most recent works of the five artists in Sparkplug display a deft navigation of the juncture between collectivism and the individual. DCAC is pleased to announce the opening of “Loose Ends” the final exhibition of the current cohort of Sparkplug: Chajana DenHarder, Joe Hale, Chandi Kelly, Matt Smith, and Dafna Steinberg. Through Video, photography, painting and sculpture the artists study themes of shifting frames, deconstruction of systems, and neo-romanticism. “Loose Ends” presents these themes as threads that link artist to artist, but never tie all of them together, thereby highlighting the paradoxical interplay between collectivism and the individual in the works of these five artists.

These artists negotiate with and unseat the canons of their chosen disciplines: Matt Smith utilizes techniques originating from the craft of quilt making within the convention of minimalist post-painterly abstraction to make pictures that look like paintings but are ultimately stitched fabric. Chandi Kelley uses digital photography, a medium associated with the obsolescence of photography’s authority on the truth, to document museum-constructed environments that emulate a disappearing natural world. Chajana DenHarder compromises the indexical nature associated with photography by not only physically tearing through pictures and disrupting them with paint, but she also re-photographs the aftermath, self-consciously reigning materiality back into the realm of illusion. Dafna Steinberg tries to make sense of the present by piecing it together from the future, and Joe Hale raises his subjects to epic status using painterly gestures to break them apart with a machine.

“Loose Ends” represents each of these artists as open systems operating within the mutable environment of Sparkplug.

The exhibition takes place from Friday, June 15 to Sunday July 15. The opening reception will be held on Friday, June 15 from 7 PM to 9 PM. An artist talk will be held of Sunday, July 15 at 3 PM. DCAC is located in the heart of Adams Morgan at 2430 18th Street NW, Washington DC, 20009. Gallery hours are Wednesday to Sunday from 2 PM to 7PM.



“Singularity” digital print on archival paper, Chajana DenHarder



“Howl” digital print on archival paper, Chandi Kelley



“Untitled” Fabric and wood, Matt Smith



“Untitled” mixed media, Dafna Steinberg



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