



WHAT:

Snow Gallery presents

Re:Collections

Kinetic Sculpture and Animation

by John Douglas Powers

WHEN:

January 24, 2009 – March 6, 2009

The gallery is open Wednesday - Saturday, 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Opening Reception: Saturday, January 24, 2009, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

WHERE:

Snow Gallery

1517 Dallas Avenue

Nashville, TN 37212

www.SnowGallery.net

CONTACT:

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Remember

Wood, steel, paper, electric motors,
typewriters, 2006

Snow Gallery presents ***Re:Collections***, an exhibition featuring assemblages, collages and animation by John Douglas Powers, Assistant Professor of Sculpture at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. The exhibition runs from Saturday, January 24, 2009, to Friday, March 6, 2009, with an opening reception on Saturday, January 24, 2009, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Powers is an artist concerned with the intersection of cinema, computation, music and physical space. This exhibit, which is organized around the theme of memory and recollection, includes the artist's explorations of time and space, mechanism and narrative using a variety of media. Works in the exhibit are composed of a collection of found objects each of which embodies the inherent quality of age and intrinsic individual history, thus recapitulating the overarching theme.



“Memories inform our actions, keep us company, and give us our noisy, ever-chattering private sense of self,” says Powers. They constitute our individual identity, but like dreams they are complex, subjective and changing creations, not the static product of an objective observer. In his work, the artist explores the idea of quanta—the indivisible physical units of energy and momentum that give rise to ideas and memories. For Powers this investigation is connected to music, and especially electronic music and the recording process, both of which stem from electrical impulses. “Each memory is a plural event, an ensemble of synchronized neurons, some side by side, others relatively far apart,” he notes.



The focal point of the exhibit, *Remember*, is an installation of electric typewriters fitted with Da Vinci-esque wooden mechanisms, a group that produces a cacophony of sound and an enigmatic text in concert. By pairing the old and new, the romantic and the mundane, *Remember* conjures a plethora of individual memories and a “confusion of nostalgias.”

The exhibit will also feature an animated short film, *The Collector*, in which Powers adds sound and motion to found objects creating a surrealistic narrative, a cautionary tale about the phenomenon of “collecting.”

In a playful counterpoint to *The Collector*, the Gallery will exhibit its collection of more than 700 antique spoons hand-engraved with women’s given names. A collection that embodies the cultural memory of 19th-century American society and etiquette, each individual spoon also evokes the personal story of a single named proprietress.



Powers, a graduate of Vanderbilt University with a degree in art history, is the recipient of the prestigious Joan Mitchell Foundation grant, the 2008 Southeast College Art Conference Individual Artist Fellowship, and the 2001 Margaret Stonewall Wooldridge Hamblet Award.

Snow Gallery offers a unique mix of historical and contemporary art juxtaposed to bridge eras and cultures. Rotating current exhibits complement an outstanding collection of rare prints, textiles, and other arts and crafts from around the world.