


Montpelier Arts Center



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THROUGH February 29, 2008

Contact: Ruth Schilling Harwood,
Assistant Director

Main Gallery *Digital Sequences*: Chris Jordan, *Running the Numbers* & Gail Rebhan, *Room*

Dates: January 11-February 29, 2008

Reception: Friday, February 1, 7-9 pm

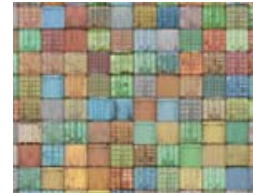
Lecture: Saturday, February 23, 3:30 pm. The Emerging History of
Digital Photography by Shannon Perich, Associate Curator,
Smithsonian's National Museum of American History

Gallery Hours: 10 am – 5 pm, seven days a week



Chris Jordan, *Shipping Containers*, 60" x
100" Depicts 75,000 shipping containers the
number processed through American ports
each day.

(Detail)



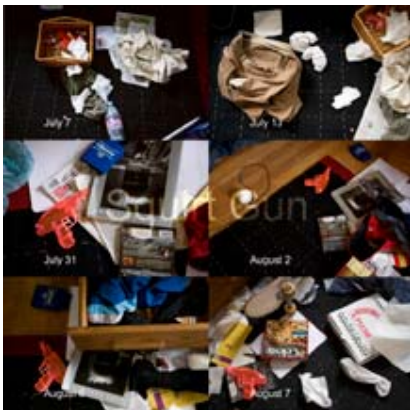
Running the Numbers, An American Self-Portrait is
startling both visually and for the information it

presents. This series looks at contemporary American culture through the austere lens of
statistics. Each image portrays a specific quantity of something: fifteen million sheets of office
paper (five minutes of paper use); 106,000 aluminum cans (thirty seconds of can consumption)
and so on. Interviewed on both The Steven Colbert Report

(<http://www.comedycentral.com/shows/thecolbertreport/videos/celebrityinterviews/index.jhtml>)

and Bill Moyers Journal (<http://www.pbs.org/moyers/journal/archives> and search on Sept 21),

Chris Jordan uses the tools of digital photography to redefine the document. Chris Jordan is a
Seattle based photographer whose work has been exhibited and published extensively including
the book, *In Katrina's Wake*, (2005). He is represented by Von Lintel Gallery in New York and
Paul Kopeikin Gallery in Los Angeles. His work can be viewed at www.chrisjordan.com.



Gail Rebhan, *Squirt Gun*,
from the series *Room*

At the other end of the consumer spectrum, **Gail Rebhan** takes
an extended look at her son's room through a sequence of
photographs taken over the summer. Photographing various
objects in her son's room, a pizza box or a squirt gun for
example, she digitally highlights them and reveals a pattern of
use, the serendipity of placement, and another view of
consumerism. As the artist says: "...the work is about
contemporary American disposable society, mass consumption,
and male clutter."

Much of Rebhan's work has centered on the family in the context
of larger social issues. Many of her projects have been created as



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Department of Parks & Recreation, Prince George's County, Arts and Cultural Heritage Division.



books using digital technology and are in the collections of the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Smithsonian American Art Museum, and the Polaroid Corporation among others. Her work is included in several books including Reframings: New American Feminist Photographies, Pregnant Pictures, and Our Grandmothers: Photographs by 75 Women Photographers. Rebhan received her MFA from California Institute of the Arts and teaches at the Woodbridge campus of Northern Virginia Community College. She has exhibited nationally and in Europe and locally exhibited her previous body of work, "Aging," at Pyramid Atlantic last year. Her work can be viewed at www.gailrebhan.com

As photography evolves from film to byte artists are using the new technology to extend the distinct forms of meaning a photograph can impart. These two photographers offer us solutions that use both the documentary aspect of photography along with the fictions unique to digital software. Ruth Schilling Harwood, Assistant Director at Montpelier curated the exhibition. For images and more information on the artists, please contact her at ruth.harwood@pgparks.com.

In conjunction with the exhibition, curator **Shannon Thomas Perich** will speak about the Emerging History of Digital Photography on Saturday Feb. 23 in the Main Gallery. Shannon Thomas Perich has been an associate curator in the Photographic History Collection at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History since 1996. She holds a master's degree in museum studies from George Washington University as well as a B.F.A. in photography and a BA in art history from the University of Arizona, Tucson. Her research interests include vernacular and snapshot photographs, William Henry Fox Talbot, Richard Avedon, and the history of digital photography.

Arts Programs of the Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission are supported by a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council, an agency funded by the State of Maryland & the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Department of Parks and Recreation encourages and supports the participation of individuals with disabilities. Please contact the facility at least two weeks in advance of the program start date to request an accommodation (i.e. sign language interpreter, support staff, etc.).

