

For Immediate Release

GALLERY 479

ART IN ATHLETICISM: THE FORM AND PHYSICALITY OF BOXING

An exhibition by Desiree D'Alessandro in collaboration with Raymond Douglas

Event Title: Art in Athleticism: The Form & Physicality of Boxing

Exhibition Feature: Desiree D'Alessandro in collaboration with Raymond Douglas

Closing Reception/Exhibition Bout: Friday, April 22nd from 5-7pm

Exhibition Dates: Monday, April 18th through Friday, April 22nd

Exhibition Location: Old Gym Gallery 479 at UC Santa Barbara

Gallery Hours: 11-5pm Monday-Friday

Training Facility Hours: 5-6pm Tuesday and Thursday

In conjunction with the UCSB Interdisciplinary Humanities Center event series, *Geographies of Place*, artists Desiree D'Alessandro and Raymond Douglas take a unique look at the local student body of Isla Vista. The resulting exhibition, *Art in Athleticism: The Form and Physicality of Boxing*, focuses specifically on recreational and competition boxers.

The exhibition was conceived by D'Alessandro who aimed to not only depict the student boxers utilizing traditional artistic approaches, but to also let the physical bodies engaged in athleticism first-hand be the medium on exhibit in an art context. This innovative and intriguing displacement facilitates dialogue across the boundaries of art and athleticism in a generative and productive new arena. This approach also promotes an invariable change in viewership for both realms and strikes an interdisciplinary conversation in which these disciplines can corroborate and contribute.

The venue that hosts the culmination of these efforts is a site of particular interest. UC Santa Barbara's Gallery 479 is a site imbued with athletic history that still features rustic floors dating from when the space was a recreation center prior to 1949. The interplay of activating the current gallery and historical use of the space is invigorating for the context of holding an athletic-themed art exhibition, complete with alternative hours where the gallery is utilized as a training facility and a closing reception exhibition bout. In addition to activating time and space, the exhibition promises to also be affectively visceral—showcasing image, scale, movement, color, shape and form.

Ten student boxers from the local community, photographed by Douglas, will be on display alongside heavy bags and a full-scale boxing ring constructed by D'Alessandro. The student boxers will make physical appearances in honor of camaraderie and affection for the noble art of boxing throughout the duration of the exhibition. The featured student-boxers include Cameron Arthur, Sarah Cammann, Desiree D'Alessandro, Christian Gebbe, Annika Harper, Wally Ludel, Johnny Nguyen, Christine Olson, Jennifer Shin and Alan Swanson.

Desiree D'Alessandro (desiree-dalessandro.com) is a graduate artist and aspiring amateur boxer pursuing her MFA from UC Santa Barbara. Her work in New Genres emphasizes kinaesthetic, interactive and immersive examinations via a variety of platforms. Raymond Douglas (raymondjdouglas.com) is an undergraduate artist pursuing his BA with an emphasis in photography.

Funding and support for this event has been generously provided by the UC Santa Barbara Graduate Division, Interdisciplinary Humanities Center, Department of Art, Duke's Boxing/Fitness of Isla Vista and David Martinez of dmbboxing.com. *Art in Athleticism: The Form and Physicality of Boxing* runs from Monday April 18th through Friday April 22nd, 2011. The closing reception and finale exhibition bout will be on Friday April 22nd from 5-7pm. Gallery hours are M-F from 11-5pm and Training Facility hours are Tuesday and Thursday 5-6pm.

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GALLERY 479 is UCSB's Department of Art student-run exhibition space in Building 479 that features current creative endeavors by students and faculty. The gallery is available for one-week exhibitions throughout the Spring, Fall, and Winter quarters.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND VISUAL IMAGERY CONTACT:

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Event Information:

<http://arts.ucsb.edu/event/art-athleticism>

Gallery Information (map/parking):

<http://arts.ucsb.edu/facilities/gallery479>



Desiree D'Alessandro photographed by Raymond Douglas, 2011