



INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART
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NEWS RELEASE



top: Trenton Doyle Hancock, *Flower Bed II: A Prelude to Damnation* (detail), 2008, 9 color screen-printed wallpaper with fluorescent inks. Published in collaboration with Graphicstudio, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL; Image courtesy of the artist and James Cohan Gallery, New York.

TRENTON DOYLE HANCOCK: WOW THAT'S MEAN AND OTHER VEGAN CUISINE

APRIL 25–AUGUST 3, 2008

OPENING RECEPTION: THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 6-8PM

EXHIBITION WALKTHROUGH WITH ARTIST TRENTON DOYLE HANCOCK AND ASSISTANT CURATOR ELYSE GONZALES: THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 5PM, ICA MEMBERS ONLY

PHILADELPHIA, PA

The Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) is pleased to present a site-specific installation by Trenton Doyle Hancock on view in ICA's Ramp and Project spaces April 25-August 3, 2008. Since 1997 Trenton Doyle Hancock (b. 1974, Oklahoma City, OK) has created a body of work that has evolved into the sprawling, mythic tale of the Mounds, a gentle, human-plant hybrid, and the Vegans, an evil, tofu-worshipping mutant species of ape man who want to destroy all Mounds. Each of Hancock's uniquely crafted exhibitions is an opportunity for him to further develop a particular chapter or incident in the narrative through his paintings, drawings, prints, wallpapers and installations.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Vegans, which Hancock first created while a graduate student at Philadelphia's Tyler School of Art. His exhibition "Wow That's Mean and Other Vegan Cuisine" at ICA will honor the occasion by exploring, in greater detail, their formation. The 90-foot Ramp will be hung with Hancock's new, custom-made glow-in-the-dark wallpaper. Visitors will be bombarded by the colorful imagery on the walls depicting "The Great Mound Massacre," the violent murder of several hundred baby mounds by their half brother and sister, ape man and woman, Brothescam and Cromalyna. Throughout the day, the wallpaper will change appearing, in daylight hours, as more flat and subdued, but becoming significantly more vibrant and colorful, even seemingly three dimensional as night falls with only the black lights to illuminate the images.

From the Ramp, visitors will move directly into the Project Space and see work that depicts the subsequent creation of the Vegans. Hancock has arranged a composition of paintings and drawings, both new and old, along with an assemblage of objects purchased by the artist from area thrift stores and explicated by wall drawings made on site. In Hancock's narrative Brothescam and Cromalyna, are banished to the underworld for the murders and procreate producing the Vegan race. A small group of the

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*checklist and images available upon request.

GENERAL INFORMATION

ICA is located at:
118 South 36th Street at the
University of Pennsylvania

ICA is open to the public, except during
installation, from 12pm to 8pm on Wednesday
through Friday and from 11am to 5pm on
Saturday and Sunday.

Admission is \$6 for adults, \$3 for students over
12, artists, and senior citizens; and free to ICA
members, children 12 and under, PENN card
holders, and on Sundays from 11am to 1pm.

For more information,
call 215-898-7108/5911, or visit
www.icaphila.org.

INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART

Founded in 1963, the Institute of Contemporary
Art at the University of Pennsylvania is a
leader in the presentation and documentation
of contemporary art. Through exhibitions,
commissions, educational programs, and
publications, ICA invites the public to share
in the experience, interpretation and
understanding of the work of established
and emerging artists.

included works will also deal with the evolution of the Vegans as a visual
element based on the artist's experiences living with staunch vegans while in
graduate school.

Hancock represents one of several contemporary artists, among them Polly
Apfelbaum, Kerry James Marshall, Layla Ali and Takashi Murakami, who cite
comics as important source material, in terms of imagery or technique, for
their work. Hancock uses the ongoing serial output, consistent with comics,
as a method of production and always returns to his overarching narrative of
the struggle between the Mounds and Vegans. He even includes a super-
hero character (his alter ego!) Torpedo Boy. But like Luca Buvoli, Matthew
Ritchie, and Matthew Barney, Hancock's work also incorporates an elaborate
mythology that is generative involving a highly developed cast of characters
that play integral roles in the plot that Hancock has captured in a variety of
media.

Hancock lives and works in Houston where he was a 2002 Core Artist in
Residence at the Glassell School of Art of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.
He earned his BFA from Texas A&M University, Commerce and his MFA from
the Tyler School of Art at Temple University in Philadelphia. He has most
recently been the subject of a major exhibition, "The Wayward Thinker," his
first in Europe, which was curated by the Fruitmarket Gallery in Edinburgh,
Scotland and traveled to the Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam,
The Netherlands. Hancock was featured in the 2000 and 2002 Whitney
Biennial exhibitions. His work has been the subject of one-person exhibitions
at the Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston, the Modern Art Museum of Fort
Worth, and the Museum of Contemporary Art, North Miami. He has also been
featured in an episode of *Art 21*, a TV series about contemporary art, dealing
with storytelling.

This exhibition is organized by Assistant Curator Elyse Gonzales, and will be
accompanied by a brochure publication.

*ICA is grateful to the Iris and James Marden Exhibition Fund for sponsoring this
Project Space exhibition and to the William Penn Foundation for primary sponsorship
of the Ramp. ICA acknowledges the support of The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation,
the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, The Dietrich Foundation, Inc.,
the Overseers Board for the Institute of Contemporary Art, friends and members of
ICA, and the University of Pennsylvania. We are also grateful for the in-kind support of
the James Cohan Gallery, New York and Dunn and Brown Contemporary, Dallas.*

ALL PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE VISIT THE ICA WEBSITE,
WWW.ICAPHILA.ORG, FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PROGRAMS IN CONJUNCTION
WITH "TRENTON DOYLE HANCOCK: WOW THAT'S MEAN AND OTHER VEGAN
CUISINE."