The University of South Florida Contemporary Art Museum is pleased to present Stagecraft: Brian Bress, Deville Cohen, Kate Gilmore, Brian Bress, Deville Cohen together in a group exhibition entitled Stagecraft.

Brian Bress, Creative Ideas for Every Season, 2010

For his most recent video, Creative Ideas for Every Season, Brian Bress fabricated the set of a moon-like mountainous landscape in his Los Angeles studio. Traveling through the landscape in a cardboard jalopy, his female protagonist imagines a series of fantastical characters—among them a yeti-like monster who dines on a plate of spaghetti and a sword-wielding giant with a sword fashioned from a Terracotta warrior—and then brings these characters to life with a series of stop-motion animations. The work is a meditation on the act of making art itself in all its necessary absurdity.

Deville Cohen, Grayscale, 2009–2010

Deville Cohen’s Grayscale is a performance that uses projection and animation, seductive video and installation to force the audience to reconsider the established concepts and conventions of the art world. The experience is transgressive, subversive and enigmatic, and becomes a visual and auditory journey into the mythic and the mystical. Cohen’s unique, hard-hitting works have been presented internationally and have been featured in The Whitney Biennial 2010, МоMA/P.S.1 (Greater New York: 5 Year Review), and the Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions, Los Angeles; and California Video Artists and Histories, Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles.

Kate Gilmore, Buster, 2011

For Stagecraft, USFCAM commissioned Kate Gilmore to create Buster, a work that fuses video, performance and installation. Gilmore graduated from the School of Art and Art History, University of Miami, in 2006. In 2010, her work has been the focus of solo exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art (Whitney Biennial 2010); MoMA/P.S.1 (Greater New York: 5 Year Review); Brooklyn Museum; The Kitchen, Vasari College; and Indianapolis Museum of Art. Gilmore has had solo exhibitions at Bryant Park; Locust Projects; Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia; Franco Galliartino Arte Contemporanea; Smith/Gewater Gallery; White Columns; and Artpeak. Her work belongs to collections including the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Brooklyn Museum; Whitney Museum of American Art; and Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago.

Mary Reid Kelley, You Make Me Illiad, 2010

Mary Reid Kelley’s You Make Me Illiad defies conventions of historical narrative. Her video focuses on two invented characters in German-occupied Belgium at the end of World War I: a young soldier, who despite his distaste for bloodshed aspires to write an epic tale of war rivaling Homer’s Iliad, and a Belgian prostitute, both performed by Mary Reid Kelley. The script, written in rhyming sardonicapestes, follows the soldier through a hand-drawn landscape in black-and-white, intercut with stop-motion animations of text, as he pursues what his burgeoning epic lacks—a hero. The video culminates in an encounter between the soldier and the prostitute, who dares the youth’s grandiose notions of his poetic passion in a luridly punning dialogue on sex, war and the classics.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Brian Bress is a Los Angeles-based artist and filmmaker. Born in Norwalk, CA, in 1979, Bress received his BA from Rhode Island School of Design in 1998 and his MFA from University of California, Los Angeles. In 2010, he was awarded the Louis Stern Family Foundation’s Best of Fairs at the Whitney Biennial in Los Angeles, CA. Bress’ film Against the Grain has been the focus of solo exhibitions at the Flint Institute of Arts (Flint, MI) and the Wigratz Modern Art Center (Parco Lucarno, CA). Group exhibitions include Video Art Today: Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia, “Now That I’m by myself,” she says, “I’m not by myself which is good” DiversityEast, Houston; Against The Grain, Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions, Los Angeles; and California Video Artists and Histories, Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles.

Deville Cohen was born in Tel-Aviv in 1977. He received his KHB from Wiesseveme Kunstakademie in Berlin, Germany, and his MFA from Corcoran College of Art and Design in 2010. In 2010, his work is featured in the Whitney Biennial in New York at MoMA PS1, The Company in Los Angeles, California, and Les Espaces du Temps in Nantes, France. Among his exhibitions at USFCAM are Buster, Los Angeles, CA, 2009; and Fredericks & Freiser Gallery, New York, 2011. His work has been the focus of solo exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art; White Columns; and Artpace. His work belongs to collections including the Whitney Museum of Modern Art, New York; Brooklyn Museum; Whitney Museum of American Art; and Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago.

Mary Reid Kelley works across video, animation, painting and performance. Born in Greenville, South Carolina, in 1979, she received her BFA in 1997 and her MFA from University of California, Los Angeles in 2006. In 2010, her work has been the focus of solo exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art (Whitney Biennial 2010); MoMA/P.S.1 (Greater New York: 5 Year Review); Brooklyn Museum; The Kitchen, Vasari College; and Indianapolis Museum of Art. Kelley has had solo exhibitions at Bryant Park; Locust Projects; Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia; Franco Galliartino Arte Contemporanea; Smith/Gewater Gallery; White Columns; and Artpeak. Her work belongs to collections including the Whitney Museum of Modern Art, New York; Brooklyn Museum; Whitney Museum of American Art; and Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago.

Artist Mary Reid Kelley works across video animation, painting and performance. Born in Greenvile, South Carolina, in 1979, she received her BFA in 1997 and her MFA from University of California, Los Angeles in 2006. In 2010, her work has been the focus of solo exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art (Whitney Biennial 2010); MoMA/P.S.1 (Greater New York: 5 Year Review); Brooklyn Museum; The Kitchen, Vasari College; and Indianapolis Museum of Art. Kelley has had solo exhibitions at Bryant Park; Locust Projects; Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia; Franco Galliartino Arte Contemporanea; Smith/Gewater Gallery; White Columns; and Artpeak. Her work belongs to collections including the Whitney Museum of Modern Art, New York; Brooklyn Museum; Whitney Museum of American Art; and Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago.

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Mary Reid Kelley

Solitude, 2010

Collage of charcoal, ink and acrylic on paper

22 ½ x 19 ½ inches

Courtesy of the Artist

Mary Reid Kelley

Soldier, 2010

Collage of charcoal, ink and acrylic on paper

24 ⅞ x 18 inches

Courtesy of the Artist

Mary Reid Kelley

Prostate, 2010

Collage of charcoal, ink and acrylic on paper

16 ¼ x 18 inches

Courtesy of the Artist

Stuart Schuffman

Two Men, 2010

Black and white digital video, sound

40 minutes

Courtesy of the Artist

Mary Reid Kelley

Los Angeles, CA

2009

Black and white digital video, sound

15 minutes

Exhibit Checklist

Deville Cohen

You Make Me Illiad, 2010

Black and white digital video, sound

22 ½ x 19 ½ inches

Exhibit Checklist

Mary Reid Kelley

Prostate, 2010

Collage of charcoal, ink and acrylic on paper

16 ¼ x 18 inches

Courtesy of the Artist

Stuart Schuffman

Two Men, 2010

Black and white digital video, sound

40 minutes

Courtesy of the Artist
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