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PRESS RELEASE

Exhibitions at UMass Boston

Defiled:

Dana Ellyn, Matt Sesow, and the Recent Vocabulary of Popular Politics

Defiled features the work of two Washington D.C. based artists: Dana Ellyn and Matt Sesow, a couple whose respective works speak the language of the 21st Century American politcal consciousness fluently, although through vastly differing stylistic approaches. Sesow has been called an "outsider artist," having been self-taught with no traditional artistic training, while Ellyn received training in the fine arts at George Washington University. The keystone of the exhibition is the *Defiled* series of collaborative paintings which express their political messages with particular potency through an aesthetic merger of academy and colloquialism. The exhibition will be on display during regular hours from April 7 through April 25, with a reception on Thursday, April 4, from 5:00 until 8:00 PM.

We live a time when individual politics are defined by images and sound bytes, lists of questions and controversies as more and more Americans prefer to see themselves as 'independents' rather than towing a party line. The wave of inquiry and criticism which has arisen from such a means of identification has fractured once-cohesive political groups from over pointed controversies. Conversely, groups of seemingly disparate individuals have also banded together over issue-oriented politics, rather than grouping under broader political umbrellas. Social media and the Internet have enabled massive campaigns and grassroots petitions and engendered a whole new means of participating in civil affairs. The collective body of work created by Matt Sesow and Dana Ellyn surveys the spectrum of such decisive topics from animal rights to women's reproductive rights to the U.S. drone program. Their new collaborative series highlights the democratic aspects of this new political engagement through the combination of Ellyn's classicly influenced artistic methods and art historical references and Sesow's informal use of style and popular iconography, proposing a lexicon of public political discourse.

For more information please contact the Harbor Gallery director, Kevin Benisvy at Kevin.Benisvy001@umb.edu.

WHEN
April 7 - April 25, 2013
Reception on April 4, 5-8 PM
Regular hours Mon. - Thu., 1 - 7 pm

WHERE
Harbor Gallery
McCormack Floor 1
UMass Boston

ADMISSION
Free to attend and open to the public

DIRECTIONS
By public transit:
Take the Red Line, 5, 8, 16, or 41 buses to JFK/UMASS.
A free shuttle will transport guests to and from campus.

By car:
From north or west take the Southeast Expressway to exit 15. Turn Left on Columbia Rd. and take the first right in the rotary toward Morrissey Blvd. Follow signs for UMass Boston. From south take the S.E. Expwy to exit 14 and follow Morrissey Blvd. to the campus.
Paid parking is available on campus.

MORE INFO
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