

# economy of means

## toward humility in contemporary sculpture

On view January 21 through April 29, 2012 at the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art

OPENING RECEPTION: Friday, February 10



Installation view of *economy of means* at the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, 2012. All photos by Peter Bugg.

Jay Atherton | Vanessa Billy | Beth Campbell | Martin Soto Climent | Felipe Cohen | Alexandre da Cunha | Constance DeJong | Jason Dodge | Ara Dymond | Tony Feher | Ceal Floyer | Theaster Gates | Ken Landauer | Shana Lutker | Angela Mewes | Helen Mirra | Mitzi Pederson | Arlene Shechet | George Thiewes

In these lean times, we are often asked to do a lot with a little. The artists featured in *economy of means* move through the world as scavengers, distilling the material stuff of our lives and re-presenting it in form, function or idea using concise gestures. This economic communication allows for poetry and subtlety to have maximal impact. The sculptural works are understated, even ephemeral, but a simplistic characterization is deceptive. The artists' tendency to look to their materials as a means of dictating form and function demonstrates an honesty in relationship to the media and focuses attention on the individual artistic gesture. Extracting the essential becomes a way of indentifying one's unique take on the world.

Moving beyond the Conceptual and Minimalist foundations in which they are rooted, these artists actively engage with the psychological and emotive impact their work elicits. *economy of means* seeks to recontextualize the traditional power dynamics of Conceptual and Minimalist art in contemporary practices by striking a balance between subjectivity/intuition and objective/intrinsic material motivations.

By acknowledging their own subjectivity, these artists express humility and human fallibility.

Ultimately, the *material* itself—the means—shines through as the greatest common denominator. In its power, it illuminates commonalities in seemingly divergent artistic practices and subtly reveals how our physical world enables us to remain connected and interdependent.

Organized by the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art. Curated by Cassandra Coblentz. Sponsored by the Walter and Karla Goldschmidt Foundation and the SMOCA Salon. Available to travel beginning Summer 2012. For more traveling information contact Lauren O'Connell, [480-874-4639](tel:480-874-4639), [LOConnell@sccarts.org](mailto:LOConnell@sccarts.org).

Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art

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