



# TONGUE-IN-CHEEK

Anula Shetty + Michelle Myers | Beth Nixon | bex\* | Candy Depew  
Elizabeth Fiend | Judy Gelles | Naima Lowe + Emmy Bean | Nannette Acker Clark

OCTOBER 14 - DECEMBER 16, 2011



leeway foundation

# ABOUT LEEWAY

Support for individual artists is at the core of Leeway's mission. The Foundation serves as an important resource for women and transgender artists who often struggle to find funding for their work and hopes to grow the way its resources support social change through supporting art and culture.

Our grant programs, the Art and Change Grant and the Leeway Transformation Award, are open to women and transgender artists living in the Philadelphia region working in any medium of art, including traditional and non-traditional as well as multimedia and experimental forms. Creating change must be integral to the ideas, beliefs, and goals that are woven throughout the work and the process of creating and sharing the work.

**For more information please visit [www.leeway.org](http://www.leeway.org) or call 215. 545. 4078.**

COVER IMAGE: "Blackened Sea" by Candy Depew.

IMAGE BELOW: Scene from "Asiaphile" by Anula Shetty and Michelle Myers.



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## ABOUT THE EXHIBIT

**“A “tongue in cheek” statement may have a double meaning, some sort of inuendo or is witty in some way... The tone or the context of the statement may make it to be taken seriously by the listener.” --*urbandictionary.com***

*Tongue-in-Cheek*, our third exhibit in conjunction with Philadelphia Open Studio Tours (POST), features the work of ten accomplished artists, most of whom are Leeway grant and award recipients. Through a diverse set of mediums and approaches to content, this exhibit is meant first to make you smile AND then to have you consider the artists' deeper intention--whether it's the sense of joy and whimsy found in Beth Nixon's paper mache animal kingdom; the irony of Judy Gelles' images paired to comment on the influences of popular culture and its icons on our daily lives; the 'in your face' comedy of Asians Misbehavin's Anula Shetty and Michelle Myers; Nannette Acker Clark's nuanced altar pieces or her dramatic field of totems; or Elizabeth Fiend, Philly's own anarchist Martha Stewart, inviting us to join her 'Big Tea Party'--it's clear these artists are all masters of using their mediums to great effect. Enjoy the show!

***Tongue-in-Cheek* opens October 14, 2011 and closes December 16, 2011.**

- Opening Weekend: Saturday and Sunday October 15-16, 12:00pm to 6:00pm, as part of POST.
- Gallery Hours (by appointment): Mondays through Fridays 10:00am to 5:00pm.
- Official Closing Reception on December 16, 2011 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm.

Artist talks are scheduled for the following Wednesdays:

- November 2, 6:00pm to 8:00pm - **Judy Gelles** and **Nannette Acker Clark**
- November 9, 6:00pm to 8:00pm - **Anula Shetty, Elizabeth Fiend** and **Michelle Myers**
- November 16, 6:30pm to 8:30pm - **Beth Nixon** and **Candy Depew**

# THE ARTISTS



**“To me, film is magic. To see is to feel. The richness, or starkness of an experience—like happiness—is multiplied when shared. As an Indian-American filmmaker, I draw upon a cross-cultural perspective which has influenced my work thematically and aesthetically. My work is personal. My work is political.”**

## **ANULA SHETTY** {LTA '07, WOO '04, HG '02}

Anula is a Philadelphia based independent filmmaker. She received her MFA in Film & Media Arts from Temple University. She is a producer and co-director of Termite TV Collective, a group of video artists who produce experimental and activist media. Her work has been broadcast on PBS and screened at festivals and museums worldwide, including the Museum of Modern Art, The Flaherty Film Seminar and the Museum of Television and Radio. Her work includes the documentary “Kamaka’ehea, Aching Eye” (Grand Prize, U.S. Super8 Film Fest) and the short fiction film “Paddana, Song of the Ancestors” (Best First Film, Mumbai International Film Festival). Anula has received a number of fellowships including three Media Arts Fellowships from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, three Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation fellowships, a Project Involve Fellowship from the Independent Feature Project, two Independence Foundation Fellowships and a Leeway Foundation Transformation Award. She has taught film and video production at Arcadia University, the University of the Arts, Asian Arts Initiative and Scribe Video Center. She has served on the boards of the Philadelphia Independent Film & Video Association (PIFVA) and the Stockton Rush Bartol Foundation. Anula is also a co-Founder of the performance group ASIANS MISBEHAVIN’ whose work features a hilarious and thought provoking blend of stand up, spoken word and sketch comedy addressing Asian American identity, racism and anti-Asian violence. She has performed at a variety of venues including the Philadelphia and New York Fringe festivals, the Adrienne and Walnut Street theater, PSNBC performance showcase, and the Vancouver Asian-Canadian Theatre.

## THE ARTISTS

### BETH NIXON {LTA '10}

Beth is the human behind Ramshackle Enterprises, her production company for her unique creations. She creates puppets, masks, piñatas, parades, pageants, clown acts, suitcase theaters, magical lands and other “spectaculah,” on her own, and in collaboration with other humans of all ages and abilities. She comes from Rhode Island, lives in West Philadelphia, and travels frequently to places where exciting building, performing, investigating or facilitating opportunities arise. Mostly she uses cardboard, science, and the imagination. Her performances and puppet installations occur in galleries, garages, street corners, and living rooms up and down the East Coast. She has been an artist-in-residence at dozens of schools, senior centers, addiction recovery and mental health programs. Beth believes in the power of bike helmets, cornstarch, tide pools, emancipatory pedagogy, utopian performatives, and snacks. She has an MFA in Interdisciplinary Arts from Goddard College. She was a 2008 Independence Foundation Fellowship in the Arts.



**“My shows and sculptures are reflections on the most ordinary, perplexing or exhilarating parts of being human, frequently illustrated in relationship to the miraculousness of other critters, plants, and systems (ecological, geological, human-made).”**

# THE ARTISTS



## BEX\* {LTA '09}

bex\* is primarily a graphic artist, filmmaker and photographer. In 2005 they helped bring together a group of artists to form the queer/leftist Searing Images Collective “[sic]” responsible for numerous local artist-driven social change campaigns. bex\* also creates art and custom clothing designs for the underserved trans/queer community under the name Pleasure&Danger, vending at local and national events.

**“When people ask me what I do, I say that I study people and make movies about them. That’s the easiest way to explain what I do, but in reality, I don’t just study people as things. The goal of my films is a furthered understanding of culture: why people do what they do, and how they make meaning of the world around them. Anthropologist Margaret Mead once said, “What people say, what people do, and what people say they do are very different things.” I am interested in all those elements.”**

# THE ARTISTS

## CANDY DEPEW {WOO '04}

Candy is based in Philadelphia and travels internationally making her work along with researching collections of ornamental prints and decorative arts. She is in the process of creating a project that will coalesce into a periodical publication called *candycoated* ([www.candycoated.org](http://www.candycoated.org)). The *candycoated* project disseminates, promotes, and shapes cultural understandings and creative manifestations of the decorative impulse. She created *moneymaker* \$, a line of intimate apparel decorated with her unique silkscreen designs, to help fund her project. Born in Cleveland, Ohio, Candy earned her BFA from Kent State University and completed her MFA at Tyler School of Art at Temple University. She has completed a number of residencies at several notable institutions internationally including The Clay Studio, the Kohler Arts/Industry Program, the European Ceramic Work Centre, and the International Studio and Curatorial Program in NYC . She has received several awards including the Pew Fellowship for the Arts in 2002. To complement her *candycoated* initiative of decorating the world little by little and spreading her passion for silkscreen printing and decorating, Candy established the "StudioSchool" of decorative art & design in Philadelphia at her *CandyCoated Center*.\*\* She has partnered with the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Public School District to set up printing studios with students in their schools. She continues to candy coat her world, and is helping others to do so, as well.

*\*\*The StudioSchool is dedicated to the memory and honors the industrious spirit of her father George Depew, 1927-2007.*



**"My work represents my personal interest in the decorative arts, ornamentation, the history of design, and the organization of interior space. I have become aware of not only the subtle relationships among the decorative, design, and the fine arts, but also the potential for combining these genres."**

# THE ARTISTS



**“It’s about how you get to school or work each morning; what you eat for lunch, and not eating your dinner out of a bucket from a fried food pick-up window; treating the environment with respect; having a good home life—which means learning that mass consumption isn’t going to make you happy; being aware of your own community as well as the world around you; giving back to others and self education. It’s also about the power of one—you.”**

## ELIZABETH FIEND {WOO '03}

Elizabeth is an educator, filmmaker, author, musician and artist currently specializing in film making, writing, and motivational speaking. She aspires to be an agent of social change and use artistic expression combined with extensive research and reliable information to improve the health of individuals, the community and the planet. Elizabeth promotes a sustainable living trinity—nutrition, environmentalism and community service, a practical, rewarding lifestyle where one’s actions won’t have a negative effect on future generations. She is the founder, writer, and on-air personality of BiC TeA PaRtY Sustainable Living (1998-present), a multimedia “edge-u-cational” women run project. Along with editor Valerie Keller she uses digital and visual media (internet, video, social media), and the written word (articles, recipes, project instructions, study guides, teacher aids) to inspire audiences’ transformation to a healthier, happier and livelier existence.



## THE ARTISTS

### EMMY BEAN

Emmy is a theater artist and musician living in Chicago and western Massachusetts. She holds a B.A. in Religion from Vassar College, with a concentration in Music and Culture. In 2005 she performed with the Cosmic Bicycle Theater in "Objete", a children's show created for the ASSITEJ International Festival in Montreal. She has performed her original puppet play "war bride" in Providence, Vermont, New York City and Quebec. Other performance work includes: "The Long Christmas Ride Home" at Studio Theater in Washington DC; "The Snow Queen" at Sandglass Theater in Putney, VT; "Flood" and "Stiles Under Sky" with Company of Strangers. She has also toured with Amanda Maddock's play "Mrs. Wright's Escape" and co-created the "Three Piggy Opera" at Links Hall in Chicago (with Barbara Whitney and Merrill Garbus). In 2008 and 2010, she worked as an Associate Curator at the Great Small Works International Toy Theater Festival in New York City. Since moving to Chicago, Emmy has worked as a performer, musician, and clown with Abraham Werewolf, the Laboratory for the Development of Substitute Materials, and Chi-Town Clown at the Neo-Futurarium. Emmy is currently at work on an Interdisciplinary Arts M.A. at Columbia College in Chicago. In the summers she lives in western Massachusetts and works as an actor with Paint Box Theatre in Northampton while she slowly builds a future artist residency/dreamhouse in an old dairy barn in Montague.



**"I am a theater artist whose instincts point me towards absurdity, comedy, and musicality. I make and perform with puppets, giving special attention to the gestural interaction between performer and puppet. In working with Naima, I had the chance to explore and combine several elements of my practices, thinking and making with her about fictionalizing the real and realizing the fictional. This collaboration offered a great many lessons in how to argue, and how to think big about histories and telling."**

# THE ARTISTS



**“We all acquire, collect, and keep meaningful objects in order to connect with our culture, our family, and our past. Through the quiet stillness of these portraits, the past and present dialogue with each other. Three generations of my family artifacts are paired to create a unique form of portraiture and provide social commentary on our lives.”**

## JUDY GELLES {WOO '99}

Judy's work is conceptual, photo based, using words and images to provide social commentary on who we are and how we think. Gelles received a MFA degree in Photography from the Rhode Island School of Design in 1991. Her work is in major collections such as the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Artist Residencies include the MacDowell Colony, the Visual Studies Workshop, and the Atlantic Center for the Arts. She has published three books: *When We Were Ten* and *Florida Family Portrait* with the Visual Studies Workshop, and *Beach Boxes* with Nazraeli Press. Awards include 2007-2008 Fleisher Challenge Artist, and the Independence Foundation Fellowship in the Arts Grant. Gelles is represented by Stephen Cohen Gallery in Los Angeles, Etherton Gallery in Tucson, Arizona, and Pentimenti Gallery in Philadelphia.

## THE ARTISTS

### MICHELLE MYERS {ACG '11}

Michelle is a spoken word poet, community activist, and educator. She is a founding member of the spoken word poetry group Yellow Rage, a dynamic duo of Philly-based Asian American female spoken word poets. The group is best known for appearing on the first season of the critically-acclaimed HBO television series *Russell Simmons Presents Def Poetry* and performing in the first-ever live Def Poetry Jam show at the 2001 HBO U.S. Comedy Arts Festival. Her solo performance credits include the 2002 Vincent Chin Remembrance events; the 2005 APIA Spoken Word and Poetry Summit; the 2009 TruJustice Protest and Rally; the 2009 Up in Arms benefit concert; the 2010 Philadelphia Fringe Festival; and the 2010 GirlFest Hawaii. In the spring of 2011, she released her solo poetry book *The SHE Book*; all proceeds from the book support Write the World, a program that seeks to connect children around the world to one another through the arts and letter-writing, and Odanadi-US, an anti-trafficking organization that services women and children in India. Michelle is a featured performer in the First Person Arts' RAW Festival; her show *The SHE Project* will be presented at The Painted Bride Art Center in November 2011. Michelle holds a Ph.D. in English from Temple University. She currently teaches as an Assistant Professor and Reading/Writing Faculty Specialist at Community College of Philadelphia and serves as the faculty advisor for the Spoken Word Poetry Club.



**"I am dedicated to raising awareness about social injustices and building positive relationships across communities through my performances."**

# THE ARTISTS



**“Too often I find that experimental filmmakers, video artists and performance artists give themselves over to solitary, auteur, obsessive, and self-involved practices that ignore the pleasure and collectivity that comes along with our transgressions. In my work I maintain a collaborative and participatory sensibility that honors my identities and resists the social conditions that keep people isolated.”**

## NAIMA LOWE

Naima is a 31 year old Queer, African American artist and educator based in Olympia, WA. Her films, videos, performances and writings have been seen at the Athens International Film and Video Festival, Ann Arbor Film Festival, Anthology Film Archive, The Knitting Factory, The Stella Elkins Tyler Gallery, The International Toy Theater Exhibition, and Judson Memorial Church. Her first film “Birthmarks” was a Student Academy Awards Finalist, won Best Experimental Film at the Newark Black Film Festival and was honored for Best Sound Design in the NextFrame International Student Film Festival. Her collaborative performance and installation Mary and Sarah and You and Me made its New York debut at the historic Judson Memorial Church. She taught video production and film history courses at Temple University, and was on the faculty of Goddard College. She is currently a member of the faculty at the Evergreen State College in Olympia, WA.

## THE ARTISTS

### NANNETTE ACKER CLARK {BBA '99}

Nannette earned her BFA in sculpture from the University of Pennsylvania in connection with the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and her MA in Art Education from University of the Arts. Clark's works explore the interaction of line, pattern and color in three dimensional reliefs. Her contemplative and graphic sculptural works are held in many public and private collections including the Hampton University Museum in Virginia, the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, and Independence Blue Cross in Philadelphia. Clark received the Bessie Berman Grant for established artists from the Leeway Foundation and has been an artist-in-residence for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, The Fabric Workshop and The Brandywine Workshop in Philadelphia. She has exhibited throughout the United States including the American Craft Museum, The Renwick Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, The American Jazz Museum, State Museum of Pennsylvania, the African-American Museum in Philadelphia, the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, and the David Driskell Gallery of the University of Delaware, Newark.



**"My work is partially inspired by the pieced textile construction tradition of countries such as Ghana and Nigeria, and American quilts as well as contemporary sculpture concepts."**

# PRICE LIST

## **Anula Shetty & Michelle Myers {Asians Misbehavin}**

"How to Spot Asiaphiles", 2006, Video

## **Beth Nixon {Ramshackle Enterprises}**

"One of Many Ways Up (Or Down)", *Ladder*, 2006-2011, Paper Mache, Approx: 1' ½ x 5', \$20

"Diane (Dicerus Bicornis)", *Mini Rhino w/teeth*, 2009-2011, Paper Mache, Approx: 1' x 1', \$200

"Veronica", 2009-2011, *Fish Arm*, Paper Mache, Approx: 6" x 3', \$150

"Angel", 2009-2011, *Wingless Bat*, Paper Mache, Approx: 3" x 1', \$75

"Stalagmites (or Termite Mounds?)", 2009-2011, Paper Mache, Approx: 1' x 1', \$25

"Uncle Eunice", 2009-2011, *Unicorn*, Paper Mache, Approx: 3' x 2 ½', \$30

"Tree into Paper into Tree", 2006-2011, Paper Mache and Branch, \$10

"Walter (Embodied Prehistoric Modernity)", 2009, Paper Mache, Seaweed and Wheel, Approx: 1' x 1', \$350

## **Candy Depew**

"Double Koi Swimming in Diamonds", Silkscreen, 19.5 x 25.5", \$300

"Black Orchid", Silkscreened wallpaper, 48 x 64", \$350

"Hibiscus Pink Burst", Silkscreen. 30 x 20", \$200

"Blackened Sea", Silkscreen on taffeta stretched on padded painting frame, 37 x 36", Not For Sale

"Golden Wings", Silkscreen thick Arches white, 14.5 x 22.5", \$150

"As Above, So Below", Silkscreen thick Arches black, 30 x 22", \$350

"Oculus", Silkscreen on thin Japanese paper, 19 x 23", \$175

"Ornament", Silkscreen archival card stock & vinyl, 24 x 19", \$150

"Pink Orchid", Silkscreen on acid free paper, 19 x 25", \$80

## **Elizabeth Fiend {Big Tea Party}**

"Chew On This!", Video

"(H)erbie The Lover Bunch", Video

"No Butts About It", Video

"Chestnuts", Video

# PRICE LIST

## Judy Gelles

"Dr. Seuss 1943-1983", 2008, Archival inkjet print, 25 ½" x 31 ¼", \$1,500

"Horses 1955-1985", 2008, Archival inkjet print, 25 ½" x 31 ¼", \$1,500

"Wedding Memories 1971-2007", 2008, Archival inkjet print, Diptych: each 17" x 17", \$800 each (\$1,600 for pair)

"Japan 1944-2004", 2008, Archival inkjet print, Diptych: each 17" x 17", \$800 each (\$1,600 for pair)

"Playsets 1954-1984", 2008, Archival inkjet print, Diptych: each 17" x 17", \$800 each (\$1,600 for pair)

"Gumby and SpongeBob 1957-2007", 2008, Archival inkjet print, Diptych: each 17" x 17", \$800 each (\$1,600 for pair)

"Barbie and Bratz 1988-2008", 2008, Archival inkjet print, Diptych: each 17" x 17", \$800 each (\$1,600 for pair)

"Coats 1952-2002", 2008, Archival inkjet print, Diptych: each 17" x 17", \$800 each (\$1,600 for pair)

## Naima Lowe & Emmy Bean

"Mary and Sarah and You and Me" (excerpts), 2008-2010, Film and Photocopied Materials

## Nannette Acker Clark

"Transmitter Series #4" (3 pieces), acrylic on canvas on wood, 72" x 22"; 72" x 19"; 72" x 20", \$1,000 each

"Transmitter Series #3" (6 pieces), acrylic on canvas on wood, 72" x 8.5" (all pieces), \$1,000 each or \$5,000 for the full set

"Transmitter Series: Blue", acrylic on canvas on wood, 47" x 18.5", \$1,500

"Informal Altar-Gold", mixed media on wood/masonite, 25" x 26", \$1,200

"Informal Altar-Blue", mixed media on wood/masonite, 28" x 22", \$1,200

"Informal Altar-Red", mixed media on wood/masonite, 24" x 26", \$1,200

"Let's Cut to the Chase Series: Number 1", acrylic on watercolor on museum board, 15" x 21.75", \$1,500

"Let's Cut to the Chase Series: Number 2", acrylic on watercolor on museum board, 15" x 22", \$1,800

"Let's Cut to the Chase Series: Number 7", acrylic on watercolor on museum board, 18" x 30", \$1,800

"Let's Cut to the Chase Series: Number 8", acrylic on watercolor on museum board, 15" x 30", \$1,800

"Informal Altar-For Mali Louise", mixed media on wood/masonite, 25" x 26", \$1,200

"Informal-Purple", mixed media on wood/masonite, 17" x 12", \$900

"Une, Deux, Trois-Une", acrylic on canvas on wood, 47" x 22", \$1,500



CURATOR DENISE M. BROWN  
EXHIBIT DESIGN + INSTALLATION JIM BROSSY + SIMONE BANKS

Profits from works sold in this exhibit go directly to  
the artists. *A price list is available upon request.*

[www.leeway.org](http://www.leeway.org)