

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Issuing Forth

Benjamin Chaffee, Timothy McMullen, Zoe Nelson, and Josh Reames
Curated by Becca Schlossberg and Hannah Klemm

February 3, 2012 - February 25, 2012
Gallery hours: Thursday-Saturday 11-5

Opening Reception: Friday February 3, 2012 6-9 p.m.

Robert Bills Contemporary is pleased to announce the opening of the exhibition Issuing Forth. This group exhibition presents new work by four artists who interrogate, extend, and experiment with the possibilities of painting. Building up, off, and around the traditionally flat plane, these four artists employ distinctive strategies that test both the potential and the limitations of the medium.

Each artist creates new supports for the painted surface through a variety of methods and techniques. Resisting traditional painterly methods and artistic methodologies, their work demonstrates ways in which the historical and material trajectory of painting may be redirected to new ends in the contemporary moment.

Zoe Nelson dramatizes the division between painted surface and negative space by cutting into the canvas. The cuts, and cut-out shapes and negative spaces produced by them, become key compositional elements. Through an emphasis on addition and subtraction, concealing and revealing, Nelson's work actively rethinks the acknowledged unity of the object, surface, and frame.

Combining a variety of materials such as painted canvas, paper, glass and panels with lean-to wooden structures, Timothy McMullen pushes the concerns of painting into three-dimensional space. McMullen translates elements of the language of painting into the realm of sculpture by inserting two-dimensional media into different spatial and structural frameworks.

Josh Reames approximates the material qualities of painting without recourse to a brush. He eschews conventional gestural application, instead mimicking or mirroring its effects. Reames selects alternative tools such as airbrush, palette knife, and paint straight from the tube to reinterpret painterly conventions in a new way.

Benjamin Chaffee's previous work in performance and installation has often addressed and interrogated the act of painting and the conditions necessary for its execution. His new work shows a deep fascination with the materiality, finish, and function of a painted surface and its supports. The resultant objects serve as potential props for a heretofore-unrealized performance, existing in between description and invention.

Robert Bills Contemporary is dedicated to finding and introducing artists in all media whose work embodies well-executed conceptual depth. The gallery is located in Chicago's West Loop at 222 North Desplaines Street at Lake on the lower level. For general inquiries please contact the Gallery Director, Hannah Klemm, at hannah@robertbillscontemporary.com or call 312.234.9091.