



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### *Paper:Work*

Featuring work by artists:

John O'Connor, Theresa Byrnes, Polly Shindler, Xanda McCagg, Anna Sorenson, and Brad Guarino.

*Curated by Kelly Worman.*

OPENING RECEPTION: Thursday, April 26th, 2012 6-9pm

**New York, NY** - Ground Arts Organization proudly presents the exhibition *Paper:Work*. This exhibition highlights works on paper by six contemporary painters. These six artists investigate one of the most familiar and humble of mediums, paper, and embrace the delicacy and surface of paper as a material. All six painters use paper as a point of departure, ranging from a platform for performance to a preparatory exercise; paper is an integral part of their processes. While separately demonstrating a broad range of technical and conceptual approaches, together they promise a fresh take on the indispensable presence of works on paper in contemporary art.

Gallery sales commission will be tax-deductible and go directly towards the *I am Haiti Project*.

**John J. O'Connor** was born in Westfield, MA, and received an MFA and MS in Art History from Pratt Institute, in 2000. He attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, was a recipient of a New York Foundation for the Arts Grant in Painting, and the Pollock-Krasner Foundation grant. He currently teaches drawing and painting at Sarah Lawrence College. In 2011, Mr. O'Connor had a solo exhibition at Pierogi Gallery in Brooklyn. He has also had solo exhibitions at Martin Asbaek Projects, in Copenhagen, Denmark, and Fleisher Ollman Gallery, in Philadelphia. Mr. O'Connor's work is included in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, Whitney Museum of American Art, Weatherspoon Museum, Southern Methodist University, and the New Museum of Contemporary Art. He currently has a studio at the Marie Walsh Sharpe Foundation.

Australian-born artist **Theresa Byrnes** began to exhibit her paintings in 1986 at the age of 16. She has had over 20 solo shows at spaces including Saatchi & Saatchi in New York and Sydney, Cristianne Nienaber Contemporary Art NYC, the Australian Embassy in Washington D.C., and many others. In 1996 Byrnes was awarded a Young Australian of the Year award, her performance pieces have been called "wondrous," "purist," and "uncompromising," by London's Daily Mirror. Byrnes published her autobiography *The Divine Mistake* in 1999 (Pan Macmillan, Australia). She moved from Sydney to New York in 2000 and received Pollock-Krasner awards in 2003 and 2006.

**Polly Shindler** was born in New Haven, CT in 1977. She received her B.A. in History from The University of Massachusetts in 2001 and received her M.F.A. in Painting at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY in 2011. Polly was recently named one of "30 Artists To Watch" by NY Arts Magazine. Current shows include Scope Art Fair, "Chromophilia" at Brooklyn Artists Gym and "MsBehavior" at ArtBridge's Drawing Room. She resides in Brooklyn and has a studio in Bushwick.

**Xanda McCagg** is a NYC based painter who's work has been shown in both individual and selected group exhibitions in New York, Connecticut, Florida, Massachusetts, and internationally in Budapest, Hungary. Her abstract compositions, rooted in figurative concepts are made with oil, graphite and collage on canvas. McCagg's work has been collected by private individuals and is also in the Alliance Capital Management collection. Along with a BFA in Art Education from Boston University she has completed Fellowship and residencies at C.A.M.A.C Marnay Sur Seine, France, The American Academy Rome, Italy, Visiting Artists and Scholars Program, The Contemporary Artists Center, North Adams MA, and Vermont Studio Center Johnson VT. She balances her time between painting and running her business: Art Introductions, art tours and events with a social twist. McCagg keeps a studio in Chelsea, NYC.

**Anna Sorenson** is born 1983 in Stockholm, Sweden. She has her BFA from Umea University in Sweden and is currently in her last semester in the MFA at Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, New York, where she lives and works. She is currently working at Joseph Kosuth Archive and Sue Scott Gallery in Manhattan. In Sweden has Anna worked at the Moderna Museet (2004-2010) and created stage design for puppet theater "Dockteatern Tittut" (2005-2006). She has also written art and dance criticism in "Danstidningen" and on-line "Omkonst", 2003-2010. She has exhibited her work in Sweden, Germany and the United States.

**Brad Guarino** is a painter, draftsman and printmaker who has exhibited nationally and internationally. His work has been included in the Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art's Radius exhibition, the Sixth International Triennial of Graphic Arts (Sofia, Bulgaria), and the Balkan Quadrennial of Painting (Stara Zagora, Bulgaria.) He has received an Artist Resource Trust grant from the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, two Artist Fellowship grants from the State of Connecticut, and awards at the Society of American Graphic Artists' National Exhibition, FilmsOnArtist's International Exhibition, Lore Degenstein's National Figurative Drawing and Painting Exhibition, and at the Connecticut State Artist's Annual Exhibitions. His work has been published in Span Magazine (New Delhi, India), and New American Paintings, and will be included in Manifest Drawing Center's forthcoming Seventh International Drawing Annual (INDA7). Guarino did postgraduate study at Bulgaria's National Academy of Art on a Fulbright Fellowship, and was twice an artist-in-residence in southern Bulgaria on Griffis and Orpheus foundation fellowships. He is currently working on an Art-in-Public-Spaces commission to produce a site-specific installation project for Tunxis Community College in Farmington, CT. He holds an MFA from the University of Connecticut and a BFA from Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts. Guarino is currently Visiting Assistant Professor of art at Connecticut College and has taught at the University of Connecticut, Eastern Connecticut State University and Mitchell College. He lives and works in New London, CT.

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Ground Arts is a not for profit organization hosting exhibitions and helping artists receive maximum exposure and opportunities in the art market, while helping build art programs around the world for children.