

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, September 22, 2008

CONTACT:

Jessica Naresh
HEMPHILL Fine Arts
1515 14th Street NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.234.5601
jessica@hemphillfinearts.com



KENDALL MESSICK, *Opening Act*, 2003, chromogenic print, 40" x 40", Ed. 7

***The Projectionist*, November 8 - December 20, 2008**

Washington, D.C. -- "You never know what people have in their basements," says Kendall Messick, referring to the Shalimar Theatre, a fully functional, faux-vintage, 9-seat movie theatre that Gordon Brinckle, a film projectionist, devoted his life to constructing in his basement. Messick has documented this moving story of one man's singular vision in *The Projectionist*, a multimedia installation of photographs, works on paper and documentary film.

Messick lived across the street from the Brinckle family as a child in suburban Delaware, and his vague memory of seeing the theatre drew him back there decades later in December 2001. Messick was compelled to both preserve and tell the story of Gordon Brinckle and began documenting Brinckle's daily life, continuing until his death in 2007.

The resulting photographs and documentary film present an eccentric outsider, whose artistic vision for what a movie theatre should be propelled him to create a remarkable body of work. Brinckle's detailed drawings of theatre designs, floor plans, and blueprints capture his intense fascination with this subject matter. Messick has carefully archived Brinckle's drawings and presents a selection of them in conjunction with his own photographs.

"[The exhibition] is intended to transcend the documentary chronicling of human experience culminating in a reflection on larger themes of acceptance, intimacy, the nature of memory, and the historical significance of individuals typically overlooked."

-Kendall Messick

The color and black and white photographs present two disparate themes. The color photographs, taken in the theatre, have the quality of a surrealist fantasy carnival, while the black and white photographs are a stark and unforgiving look at old age. By juxtaposing the two, Messick encourages the viewer to consider how often remarkable things can be overlooked.

The Projectionist is currently scheduled to travel to multiple institutions through 2009 including the University of Virginia Art Museum and the John Michael Kohler Arts Center. Messick's photographs are in numerous public and private collections including the Smithsonian Institution and the Museum of Modern Art.

The Projectionist opens to the public on Saturday, November 8, 2008 with a reception from 6:30 – 8:30pm. The exhibition remains on view through December 20, 2008. Please visit <http://www.theprojectionist.net> for more information.

This exhibition is presented in conjunction with FotoWeekDC (www.fotoweekdc.org), November 15 - 22, 2008.

GALLERY HOURS

Tuesday - Saturday, 10 AM to 5 PM and by appointment.

IMAGES ARE AVAILABLE FOR REPRODUCTION.

###