



Contemporary Art Center Press Release:

Painting Pink Pajamas

a group exhibition curated by Heather Brammeier of Bradley University

November 8 – January 2 Preston Jackson Gallery

Painting Pink Pajamas is an exhibition of work by contemporary painters that borrows its title from Dr. Seuss's ABC's. The image of anyone painting their pajamas pink suggests play taken to the extreme, beyond the limits of a watchful parent or guardian. In the artwork presented, artists push the limits of luxurious color and form, even to the point of discomfort or chaos. The influence of Dr. Seuss manifests itself in a variety of ways; often there is a dark side that counters or warns against the overindulgence of color and pattern.

In Amy Casey's work (upper left, *Climb*, acrylic on canvas, 44" x 44", 2007) an army of multi-colored tentacles is gorgeous to look at in spite of the suggestion that it is these luscious forms that wreak havoc on homes and roadways. Jackie Tileston (upper right, *Dharma Ripple*, oil and mixed media on canvas, 66" x 60", 1996) references fractals in the sherbet colors that also recall the striped landscapes in Dr. Seuss.

The exhibition includes artists from across the United States, as well as one artist from Japan (Kuroki). The artists invited to participate are: **Erica Bradbury, Heather Brammeier, Amy Casey, Yasemin Kackar-Demirel, Paul Komada, Shigeo Kuroki, Lauren Macko, Deirdre Murphy, Susanne Nestory, Nicholas Nyland, Aurora Robson, Jackie Tileston, Marjorie VanCura, Susan Ziegler**. All the artists in the exhibition invent spaces with color with the freedom of a child's imagination, but with the sophistication and knowledge that comes with an adult's experience. On a late-night talk show, Jim Carey said that Seuss is "like the punk of kid's stories." In the absence of certain limitations, artistic imagery reaches a riotous pitch that is both joyous and threatening, a thrill-ride in visual experience.

This Program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.

Hi-res images of some of the artists' work are available.

The opening reception on Saturday, November 8 will also honor Chicago artist Sung Jang who will exhibit in the Side View Gallery and Rockford artists Keith & Shari Grace who will exhibit in Gallery 3R. Food & drink will be provided. Admission is free but a donation is requested.

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