

Heather Mekkelson

(lives and works in Chicago, IL)

Education:

- 2008 **MFA**, University of Illinois at Chicago
- 1999 **BFA**, Sculpture, The School of The Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC)
- 1998 Ox-Bow Summer Arts Program, Saugatuck, MI
- 1993-1995 Purdue University

Solo Exhibitions:

- 2008 **Old Gold** *Limited Entry*, Chicago, IL
ThreeWallsSOLO *Debris Field*, Chicago, IL
- 2003 **STANDARD** *Out Land*, Chicago, IL

Selected Group Exhibitions:

- 2009 **Museum of Contemporary Photography** *PhotoDimensional*, Chicago, IL
- 2008 **Alternator** *Bellwether*, Kelowna, BC, Canada (traveling)
Vox Populi *Bellwether*, curated by Shannon Stratton, Philadelphia, PA
Gallery 400 *MFA Thesis Exhibition*, Chicago, IL
NEXT Fair *5 Artists Create A \$500 & \$5000 Sculpture*, Old Gold booth, Chicago, IL
Green Lantern *Useless Weaponry*, Chicago, IL
- 2007 **Hyde Park Art Center** *Clothesline*, Chicago, IL
Gallery 400 *Benefit Exhibition*, curated by Lorelei Stewart and Anthony Elms, Chicago, IL
- 2006 **40000** *Vomitorium*, curated by Philip Von Zweck, Chicago, IL
artLedge @ i-cabin *To London from Chicago, with Great Love*, London, UK
40000 *Versus*, a Mekkelson/Walters collaborative project, Chicago, IL
- 2005 **The Figge Art Museum** *41/90: Contemporary Landscape at The Figge Art Museum*,
inaugural exhibition, Davenport, IA (accompanying catalog)
Gallery 400 *Temporary Allegiance*, a project by Philip Von Zweck, Chicago, IL
- 2004 **Gardenfresh** *Paring Down*, Chicago, IL
ThreeWalls *Casablanca*, Chicago, IL
Modest Contemporary Art Gallery *Small Victories*, curated by Middle Management, Chicago, IL
RAID Projects *Chicago in LA*, Los Angeles, CA
- 2003 **1/Quarterly** *Fast Track 2003*, a project by John Wanzel, Chicago, IL
Guenzel Gallery *Here and There*, curated by SAIC's 1926 Exhibition Studies Program, Fish Creek, WI
The Stray Show *Metabolism*, Thomas Blackman and Associates, curated by Kathryn Hixson
and Sandra Dillon, Chicago, IL
Sioux City Art Center *...you sure about this place?*, traveling exhibition, Sioux City, IA
(accompanying catalog)
- 2002 **The Pond** *...you sure about this place?*, curated by Kathryn Hixson and The Pond, Chicago, IL
Apt. 1R *Variations*, Chicago, IL
- 2001 **Gallery 2** *Installations 2001: Alumni Exhibition*, SAIC juried exhibition, Chicago, IL
- 1999 **Gallery 2** *Undergraduate Exhibition*, SAIC, Chicago, IL

Selected Curatorial Projects:

- 2004 Co-Curator, **Artboat 2004**, a floating exhibition concurrent with Art Chicago, Navy Pier, Chicago, IL
- 2003 Curator, **Invasion**, with work by Joseph del Pesco, John Reth, Huong Ngo, Lauren Was and others, 1/Quarterly, Chicago, IL
- 2002 Curator, **Ambulation**; two artists respond to pedestrian wanderings—one with a sound reactive drawing machine and the other with paintings, 1/Quarterly, Chicago, IL
Surveyor, **Fort Quarterly**; eight “civilians” create a 1500 square foot blanket fort in forty-eight hours, 1/Quarterly, Chicago, IL

Awards and Professional Activities:

- 2008 Guest Lecturer: **Art and Discourse**, Columbia College, Chicago, IL
Nominee: **3Arts Artist Award**
Artist Lecture: **Debris Field**, ThreeWallsSOLO, Chicago, IL
- 2007 Recipient: **Navona Research Fellowship**, University of Illinois at Chicago
Graduate Representative: **Gallery 400 Advisory Committee** University of Illinois at Chicago
Guest Critic: **DePaul University** Undergraduate Photography Critiques
- 2006 Nominee: **The Driehaus Foundation's Emerging Artist Award**
Recipient: **Navona Research Fellowship**, University of Illinois at Chicago
- 2005 Panelist: **41/90 Contemporary Landscape at The Figge** Figge Art Museum, Davenport, IA
- 2003 Recipient: **Community Arts Assistance Program Grant**; provided by Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and the Illinois Arts Council
Selection Committee Member: **Artboat 2003** Navy Pier, Chicago, IL
Symposium Panelist: **Not Just Another Pretty Face** Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL
- 2002 Founder and Co-director: **1/Quarterly** (2002-2004), an alternative venue, Chicago, IL

Bibliography:

- Cole, Kevin. **Artboat Dialogue**, Summer 2003
- Cook, Christopher. **...you sure about this place?** Sioux City Art Center catalog and online, 2003
- Gunn, Dan. **Review: Heather Mekkelson/ Old Gold** *Newcity*, September 9th 2008 weekly edition
- Hixson, Kathryn. **...you sure about this place?** limited edition exhibition catalog, 2002
- Ignatius, Jeff. **The Lay of The Land** *River Cities' Reader*, October 12th 2005 weekly edition
- Lowry, Sean. **Monuments to Heroic Failure** *Broadsheet; Contemporary Visual Art + Culture (The Contemporary Art Center of South Australia)*, vol. 37, no. 3, October 2008
- Lund, Karsten. **Heather Mekkelson: Limited Entry** *flavorpill.com*, August 29th 2008
- Relyea, Lane. **Debris and Imobility** introduction to **Artist's Project: Heather Mekkelson, "Debris Field"** *Art Journal*, vol. 67, no. 1, Spring 2008. Pgs. 6-23.
- Reynolds, Andrew. **Moxie: Castle Keep** *Newcity Chicago*, July 25th 2002 weekly edition
- Robinson, Walter. **Chicago Diary** *artnet.com*, May 2002
- Speth, Scott. **Sex in Chicago** *artnet.com*, October 2002
- Stratton, Shannon. **Heather Mekkelson's Debris Field at ThreeWallsSOLO: The Persistence of Ruin** *Debris Field*, limited edition catalog
- Ward, Jeff M.. **Brave and Crazy: The Disaster-Model Construction of Meaning in the Work of Heather Mekkelson**, *Debris Field*, limited edition catalog
- Waxman, Lori. **Critics Picks** *artforum.com*, January 2008
- Yau, John, Pete Schulte, Leslie Bell and Linda Downs. **41/90 Contemporary Landscape at The Figge** museum exhibition catalog, 2005