



ELAINE L. JACOB GALLERY

480 W. Hancock, between Cass and Second, on the campus of Wayne State University

EXHIBITION: *Shrinking Cities? Wayne State University Responds*

DATES: January 26 - March 16, 2007

OPENING: Friday - January 26, 5 - 8p.m.

HOURS: Tuesday to Thursday 10 a.m. - 6p.m. Friday 10 a.m.-7p.m.

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Wayne State University's Department of Art and Art History is proud to present the works of selected graduate students in *Shrinking Cities?: Wayne State University Responds*. This special exhibition expands on the voice and scholarship forwarded in the shows titled *Shrinking Cities* presented at the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (MOCAD) and Cranbrook Art Museum which have been organized by the Shrinking Cities project, funded by the Federal Cultural Foundation in Germany. The WSU exhibition's unique perspective of Detroit's urban condition has evolved through many years of participation in the social, political, cultural and aesthetic make-up of the city, including Wayne's active and engaging exhibition programming over the years for the citizens of Detroit and its metropolitan communities. The exhibition recognizes the positive environment that Detroit provides for Wayne State University and is offered as a way to involve the community in artistic expression which balances the viewpoints forwarded in the *Shrinking Cities* exhibitions presented at MOCAD and Cranbrook Art Museum.

Shrinking Cities?: Wayne State University Responds adds an important "insider's" viewpoint to the scholarship in the *Shrinking Cities* catalog, with conceptually driven and aesthetically oriented works which incorporate the social, political and economic realities of the city of Detroit. They are optimistic and centered on the individual. The show offers an opportunity for visitors to feel a part of and know some of the affirming stories of Detroit and its remarkable people.

Through a range of approaches, the artists in *Shrinking Cities?: Wayne State University Responds* invite viewer interaction. Project installations include individual and collaborative efforts by the following artists: Ben Good's and Alana Bartol's *Detroit Windsor Journal Project*; Erica Bartels-Dawkins' *The Motor City Rosary*; Stephen William Schudlich's project titled *Urban Village*; *Corktown Summer 2006*, a series by Bernard William Brooks; *Composite Urban Dwellings (Triptych)* by Kristen Gallerneaux; *A Personal Family Lineage: Memory Mapping* by Emily Linn; and, Pam DeLaura's and JenClare Gawaran's *Visual Biographies: Students from D. P. S. Catherine Ferguson Academy*. Each project invites the viewer to participate differently — from use of the body to navigate a forest of journal entries, to viewing and feeling religious reverence and ideas of hopes and wishes, to moving pieces to create an idealized urban environment and recording those choices as a vote for hope, and, finally, viewing the complex multi-layered reflections by some of the outstanding students from the Catherine Ferguson Academy.

Detroit is a living city with an ongoing story of fortitude and ingenious problem solving. *Shrinking Cities?: Wayne State Responds* offers a small sampling of the many people, places and ideas that are in play, and provides a catalyst for conversation about the issues facing the city. We hope you will enjoy this view of the vibrant energy of Detroit, and become involved in illuminating a pathway to the city's collective future.

Shrinking Cities?: Wayne State University Responds will be presented at the Elaine L. Jacob Gallery from January 26 through March 16, 2007, with hours from 10am to 6pm, Tuesdays through Thursdays, and 10am to 7pm on Fridays. The Elaine L. Jacob Gallery is located at 480 W. Hancock, between Cass and Second, on the south end of Wayne's campus.