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The Difference Between Making a Living and Making a Killing MCQ Fine Art Advisory presents its first annual Art Handlers Group Show

(June 13, 2008) Michele C. Quinn Fine Art Advisory is pleased to announce the opening of *The Difference Between Making a Living and Making a Killing*, a group show featuring work by MCQ Fine Art Advisory art handlers, past and present, on view June 27 through August 29, in its salon located at 620 South 7th Street, two blocks east of Las Vegas Boulevard between Garces and Bonneville avenues.

For *The Difference Between Making a Living and Making a Killing*, this group of mostly Las Vegas-based artists – Mark Brandvik, Chad Brown, JW Caldwell, Evan Dent, Neil Linssen, David Ryan, Aaron Sheppard and RC Wonderly III – created signature pieces that best represent their work. They even hung their own show.

"We consider ourselves lucky to have such a talented crew handling all of our installation work," says Michele C. Quinn. "Who better to install a complicated Damien Hirst piece than a group of artists who understand what went into making it. The fact that they are all so talented in their own right is a bonus."

A native Las Vegas, **Mark Brandvik** received his BFA in 1996 from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where today he is an adjunct faculty member; and his MFA in 1998 from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Brandvik's paintings draw inspiration from architectural renderings, postcards, signage and 35 mph drive-bys of some of his favorite Las Vegas landmarks. While they are landscapes, Brandvik thinks of these paintings as portraits, treating each subject with a certain reverence. He works in series that seek to link the images depicted through specific organizational strategies, often narrative or aesthetic in nature, resulting in a form of mapping of the environment."

Chad Brown received his BFA from the University of Texas at Austin in 2001, and his MFA from UNLV in 2006. In his paintings, Brown integrates elements of the abstract and the representational before obliterating both and revealing an entirely new urban scene. Through line, color and contour, he reconstructs the experience of a particular time and place – continually redefining the work from when he first touches brush to canvas until memory and perception come to a resolution – revealing its tangible elements through familiar, yet not absolutely recognizable painted spaces and forms.

JW Caldwell knows how to weld with a MIG, an arc welder *and* an acetylene torch. It's no wonder he's MCQ's Senior Preparator. This SoCal native was two classes shy of double-majoring in studio art and philosophy from Point Loma Nazarene University when he moved to Las Vegas in 2002. Caldwell incorporates Pop art, illustrative techniques and Abstract as well as Figurative Expressionism in his work by combining elements of Pollack, Rothko and Reed in the background, which is then supplanted by more of a pop sensibility in the foreground, informed by his knowledge of printmaking techniques. The scenes are often appropriated images from western illustrators, film stills or old family photographs, which take on a new meaning through his color choices, technical treatment and re-introduction into an abstract space.

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Evan Dent, who recently relocated from Las Vegas to Wiscasset, Maine, received his BFA from the University of Nevada, Reno and his MFA from UNLV. In his paintings, Dent re-imagines characters from early 20th century studio animation by taking them out of their original context and tweaking them a bit, transforming seemingly innocent characters into unnerving portraits. He was recently commissioned by the City of Las Vegas to illustrate the new bus shelter in 18b the Las Vegas Arts District.

A native of Marshall, Minnesota, **Neil Linssen** received his BFA in painting from UNLV in 2002. When Linssen's not working on installations for MCQ, he's the Studio Manager for Madame Tussauds at the Venetian. His figurative oil paintings usually depict a populace of deviants, scoundrels and other misfits of society. His work aims to give an honest depiction of the tension between the horrific and comic, the real and fantastic.

Once a fulltime MCQ employee, **David Ryan** now makes art fulltime, including work for recent and upcoming solo exhibitions at Galerie Jean-Luc & Takako Richard in Paris, Mark Moore Gallery in LA and James Kelly Contemporary in Santa Fe. He received his BFA in 1996 from the University of Texas at Austin, where he grew up, and his MFA in 2003 from UNLV. Ryan's compressed 3-D forms look like sculpture, but have all of painting's pictorial moves and drawing's decisive line work. Art critic David Pagel said it best: "All of Ryan's works are as smart about art history as they are about contemporary design, architecture, computer graphics, cartoons and the imagination's capacity to discover narrative meaning in abstraction."

Currently a student of UNLV's MFA program, **Aaron Sheppard** incorporates a crossover of art disciplines – painting, film, body art, and writing – in order to create the characters that paint both fictional and true portraits of his art and his life. "My artwork is a journal of encounters." For his most recent exhibition, *Midway*, he recreated the essence of Coney Island, while exposing his personal relationship with the historical amusement site. Sheppard received his BFA in 1999 from the Corcoran School of Art in Washington D.C., after which he moved to Brooklyn, where he lived and worked until 2006.

Another native of Texas, **RC Wonderly III** received his BFA from the University of Dayton, Ohio, in 2006, the same year he won the first place award for sculpture in the Las Vegas Art Museum's Round Up and received an artists fellowship award from the Vermont Studio Center. His minimalist work is rooted in the relationship between the two- and three-dimensional, with a focus on the materials – hardwood flooring, plywood, sheetrock – and the process. "For me, the most interesting part of making art, whether sculptures, prints or paintings, has always been the process. I try to remove myself and allow the process to determine the final product."

This is the third exhibition at MCQ Fine Art Advisory's Downtown salon, which opened in early April of this year. Past exhibitions have included Vera Lutter, *Venice Portfolio II* and *Octagon: The Exhibition*. For more information, please contact us at (702) 366-9339 or visit us online at www.mcqfineart.com.

ABOUT MCQ FINE ART ADVISORY:

Michele C. Quinn Fine Art Advisory is a full-service art advisory and collection management firm with more than 15 years of professional experience specializing in Post-War Contemporary Art, including acquisition, installation and collection management for private and corporate art collections. Services include the procurement of fine artworks by mid-career to established blue-chip artists and museum-quality, fine-art handling of private and corporate fine art collections. MCQ Fine Art Advisory features four exhibitions per year in its salon located in the heart of Downtown Las Vegas.

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