

# UAM CSULB NEWS

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## ***BORDER MYTHS/BORDER REALITIES***

November 8 – December 16, 2007

The University Art Museum (UAM) California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) is pleased to present *Border Myths/Border Realities*, an exhibition that explores several perspectives on the concept of “border.” Although commonly defined as a physical boundary that is used to define or separate nations and cultures from one another, a border also refers to a barrier that can be personal or psychological. Borders often have the expanded effect of creating a complex set of political, social and cultural challenges. Scholarship, news reporting, popular culture, and the media in general have created images of the border that present reality from limited perspectives. By bringing together six artists whose works encompass issues about borders, the exhibition reveals multiple viewpoints on the subject. *Border Myths/Border Realities* is thus able to take a closer look at relationships developed at the border of neighboring countries, such as those between the United States and Mexico, and in the Middle East; as well as personal or psychological borders in cities such as Los Angeles.

The artists in this exhibition, Rheim Alkadhi, Abdelali Dahrouch, Gronk, Ruben Ortiz-Torres, Eddo Stern, and Whitney Stolich, employ a broad range of media, from traditional artistic techniques to advanced technology. For example, personal experience of the border is expressed by Rheim Alkadhi through the use of photography and digital imaging, while Gronk employs the traditional techniques of drawing and paper. Abdelali Dahrouch addresses the physical challenges for those who cross borders, by using sand and film imagery in his site-specific installation. Ruben Ortiz-Torres’ combination of photomontage, collage, and film presents two of his works that explore the “border culture” of Mexico and the United States. Finally, Eddo Stern’s use of “machinima” video games and Whitney Stolich’s photography address the physical and sociological aspects of borders.



*Border Myths/Border Realities* was organized for the University Art Museum by participants in the Graduate Program in Museum Studies and funded by the Department of Art, the College of the Arts, and a Cultural Diversity Grant from the Instructionally Related Activities fund at California State University Long Beach. The exhibition will be on view at the UAM from November 7 through December 16, 2007.

UAM @ noon November 13, 12:15-1 PM, Gallery talk with artist Rheim Alkadhi

Also on view in the Galleries:

In the Gordon F. Hampton Gallery:

*SANDOW BIRK: The Depravities of War*

In the Louise Carlson Gallery:

*Jacques Callot: Les Grandes Misères de la Guerre (Miseries and Misfortunes of War)*

Image Credit: Whitney Stolich, *Making the Mortgage/Third Space #15*, 2004/2005, C-print, 32 x 77" Framed

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