

the hall of minor letdowns

When Laura Davis' muse sleeps, it is more of a depressive withdrawal than a productive rest period. Willful abandonment. The muse has made an agreement to perform inspiration, to be beautiful, redolent of some ineffable ideal. The sleeping muse renegotiates through refusal. Passive aggression. Laura in conflict with her subjects. Subjects objectifying themselves as if to take on the pejorative. Except Laura identifies with her rebellious subjects, and has in fact been the instigator all along.

New grammar is so complicated.

Jason Dunda's high portraits are the artist's side of that agreement. Render a likeness of the sitter in a manner that delivers reverence. The portrait served to build a case of social position. Jason's portraits toy with authority. Undo power. Reverse the script.

Laura Davis and Jason Dunda use traditional types to explode contractual conventions. Heads have rolled. Or exploded. Adornments cost the wearer's life, or at least identity. Both artists harness materials with similar rebellion. Paint on a canvas describes, but the paint itself wins the attention wars.

-Paul Hopkin





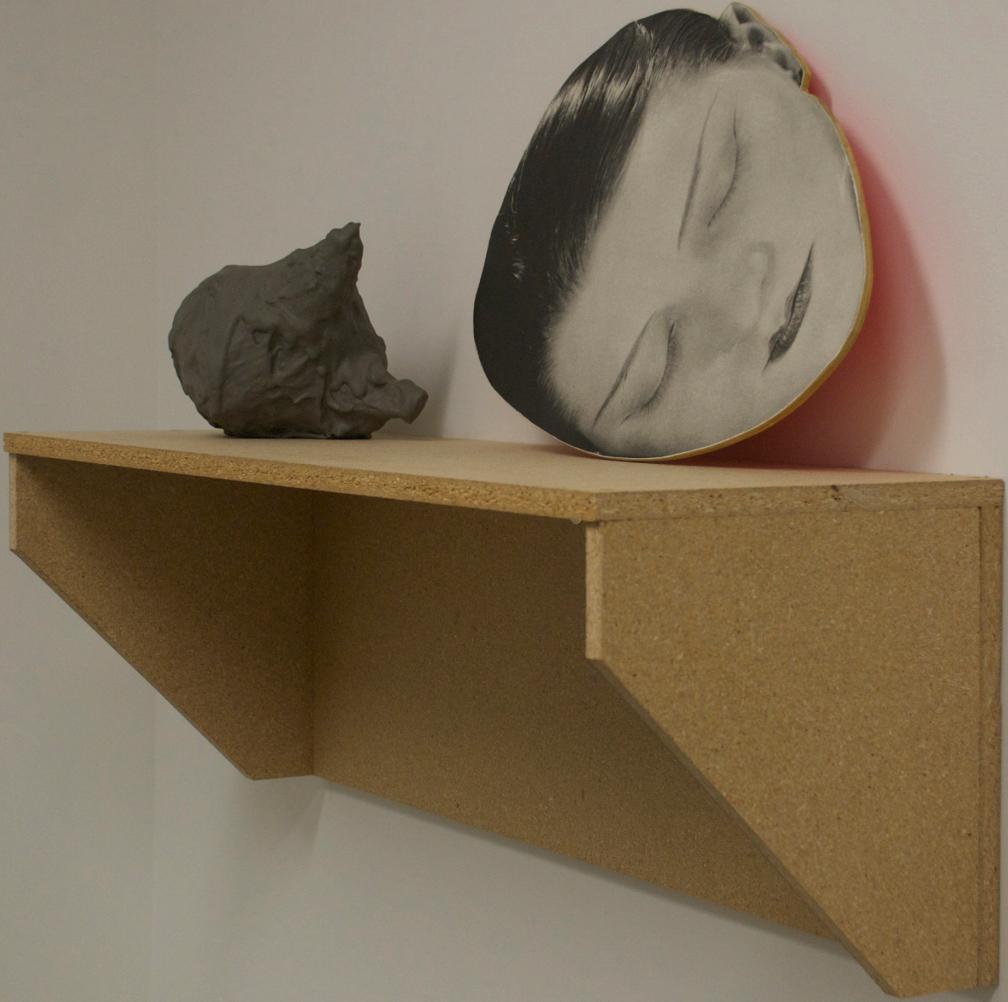


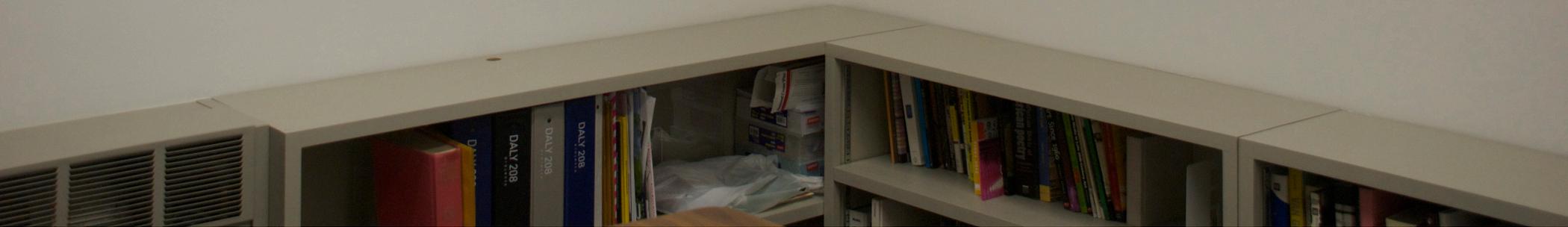
BOOKS ON THE SHELF:

- DESIGNING WITH NATURAL FORMS by MARSHA HORTZAN
- PASSAGES IN ABBAS KOBAYASHI by ROSALIND F. KRAUSS
- HOME TO ME: SOMETHING FROM NOTHING by MATHIEU TRASSARD
- HOME DAY SOON: SOCIAL STUDIES by C. G.



















Titles & Materials

Jason Dunda
Kurt Gerron Refuses to Leave Amsterdam
Oil on Linen

Laura Davis
Untitled
Bookshelves and Books

Jason Dunda
The Suit Falls Open With Break-away Pull Tabs
Oil on Linen

Laura Davis
Sleeping Mews
Plaster and Paint

Laura Davis
Kiki freed
Board, Found Image, Paint

Laura Davis
neckslice
Air drying clay, bronze, brass, copper, silver, steel, necklaces, charms, plastic, paint, electrical shrink plastic, eyeshadow.

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Air drying clay, bronze, brass, copper, silver, steel, necklaces, charms, plastic, paint, electrical shrink plastic, eyeshadow.

Jason Dunda
Works on paper are selections from the series *Various Incidents*

Jason Dunda
Widow Charges by the Hour
Oil on Linen

Artist Bios

Laura Davis (b. 1971, Holland, Michigan) is a Chicago based artist working in sculpture, drawing and installation. Her work examines the intersection of craft, design and art by using display structures to conflate notions of value and context. Davis holds a MFA from the University of Chicago and a BFA from the Cleveland Institute of Art. She teaches in the Department of Contemporary Practices at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Jason Dunda (b. 1972, Toronto, Canada) is a Chicago based painter whose work is heavily informed by research. An essential element of Dunda's process is the development of an archive of hundreds of photos sourced from the online versions of Radio Free Europe, Al Jazeera, the BBC, and other (largely non-American) news sources. His works often conflate the iconography of institutional control (cubicles, lecterns, and stages) with imagery related to street-level civil unrest (burning tires and car bombs). Dunda holds a MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and a BFA from York University, Toronto. He is Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Contemporary Practices and Arts Administration and Policy Departments at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.