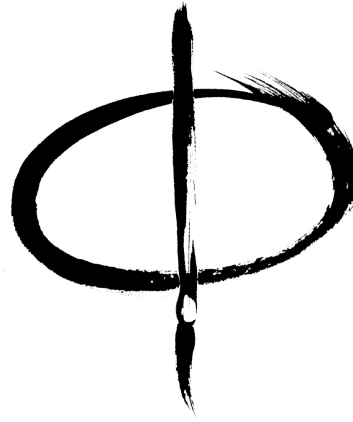


PHARMAKA



For Immediate Release

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MY CERTAIN FATE
GROUP SHOW CURATED BY TIMOTHY BUCKWALTER
MAY 14 – JUNE 6 AT PHARMAKA

OPENING RECEPTION MAY 14

To me, making a tape is like writing a letter — there's a lot of erasing and rethinking and starting again. A good compilation tape, like breaking up, is hard to do. You've got to kick off with a corker, to hold the attention...and then you've got to up it a notch, or cool it a notch, and you can't have white music and black music together, unless the white music sounds like black music, and you can't have two tracks by the same artist side by side, unless you've done the whole thing in pairs and... oh, there are loads of rules.

-- *High Fidelity*, Nick Hornsby

Los Angeles, CA -- Crossing genres, blending generations and connecting the emotional dots, *My Certain Fate*, a group show curated by Timothy Buckwalter, runs May 14 – June 6, 2009 at Pharmaka, 101 West Fifth Street in Los Angeles. Opening reception will be May 14, from 6-9 pm, a part of the Downtown Art Walk. For more information, please call 213-689-7799 or visit www.pharmaka-art.org.

Bay area artist Timothy Buckwalter made his first mix tape in 1979 while staying up late trying to record Pink Floyd's runaway hit song "Another Brick In The Wall, Part One." The 45RPM had been sold out at his local record store for weeks. Lying on the floor with his RadioShack portable cassette player – its microphone jammed against his clock radio's speaker – waiting for Pink Floyd to come on, Buckwalter realized that he could go beyond recording that one contemporary song of rebellion. He was soon jotting onto tape anything that evening that seemed connected to that song: Blondie's *Heart of Glass*, Billy Joel's *My Life*, M's *Popmuzik*, The Knack's *My Sharona*, Herb Alpert's *Rise* and *Don't Bring Me Down* from ELO.

Combining photography, painting, sculpture and text-based works in *My Certain Fate*, Buckwalter has crafted an exhibition that mimics the dynamic behind the mix tape – a genre he believed that evening he had invented but which is in fact a popular element within youth culture. Since the mid-70s the creation of a mix tape has been seen as an expression of the individual compiler's taste in music. And, of course, as a gift, it has often been put forward as a tentative move toward creating some kind of emotional relationship with the tape's recipient.

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Featuring more than 65 works from 28 U.S. and international artists, *My Certain Fate* explores and connects the feelings emoting from each piece to create an overarching narrative. Bubbling to the surface of a photo is a mysterious tale of yearning and denial. A drawing begins to crack under the weight of its own smugness. A crisp Miminalist painting offers a space to breathe, a break in the mix. Lurking beneath a sculpture is a less than obvious tale of redemption. The title for the exhibition is excerpted from one of Buckwalter's favorite songs, "That's How I Escaped My Certain Fate" on Mission of Burma's 1982 album "Vs. " -- a track that exudes a boatload of melancholia mixed with the possibility for love through self-sacrifice.

Included in the mix are works from John Altoon, Angela Baker, Val Britton, Martin Bromirski, Manuel Dominguez Jr., Bill Dunlap, Sacha Eckes, Sylvia Fragoso, Tammy Harper, Kevin Parks Hauser, Jeffrey Cortland Jones, Michelle Lewis-King, Joe Macca, Michael Macfeat, Rob Matthews, Mike Monteiro, Marlon Mullen, Christopher Saunders, Jen Siska, Dean Smith, Brian Stechschulte, Katy Stone, Rebecca Whipple, Billy White, Jim Winters, Douglas Witmer, Michael Zahn, and Nina Zurier.

A catalog -- with an essay by DJ and blogger Heidi De Vries, poetry by Suzanne Stein, and a Q&A between the curator and painter Michael Zahn -- will accompany the show. Included will be a mix CD (playing during the show).

Originally from Pennsylvania, Timothy Buckwalter (born 1966) now lives in the San Francisco Bay Area. He graduated magna cum laude from Tyler School of Art in Philadelphia. Buckwalter has been included in the Linz Biennale and exhibited nationally at De/Chiara Stewart Gallery in New York; Elizabeth Leach Gallery in Portland; Rebecca Ibel Gallery in Columbus; Lizabeth Oliveria in Oakland; Four Walls, Southern Exposure, The Luggage Store and Braunstein/Quay in San Francisco. He also writes about art for *The East Bay Monthly*, *KQED FM*, and *San Francisco Chronicle*. Over the last five years, Buckwalter helped pioneer the curating of online exhibitions, including his own yearlong weekly drawing shows as well as gigs at The Beholder and SFMOMA. *My Certain Fate*, is his curatorial venture in the physical world

My Certain Fate, a group show curated by Timothy Buckwalter, runs May 14 – June 6, 2009 at Pharmaka, 101 West Fifth Street in Los Angeles. Gallery hours are Wednesday - Saturday 12 - 6 pm. Opening reception will be May 14, a part of the Downtown Art Walk. For more information, please call or visit www.pharmaka-art.org.

Journalists: Hi res images are available of all work in the exhibition. Most artists, and the curator, are available for interviews. Please telephone Rebecca O'Leary at 213-689-7799 or email to rebecca@pharmaka-art.org