

(June 16 - July11)

2— The Front Room

SCOTT HOCKING: New Mound City



Detroit-based artist Scott Hocking finds intrigue in the transformation of everyday objects into relics. Examining discarded urban artifacts, and the role of nature as it gains power over the man-made, he explores a fading industrial age. Documenting the present—in its evolutions and decompositions—Hocking views these abandoned spaces and objects not as downtrodden keepsakes of a greater time, but as reminders that change is inevitable. Inside these varied, forgone spaces, Hocking builds new structures: mounds, ziggurats, and pyramids created from abandoned materials. He takes photographs documenting the construction, but they are otherwise left to be destroyed or found by future explorers.

For his exhibition in The Front Room, Hocking explores the history of Native American mound structures once prevalent in what is now St. Louis. Mapping out these locations where these mounds once stood—from parking lots, vacant industrials, parks, and even a riverside “tent city”—Hocking collides past and present, setting contemporary conditions against reenactments of forgotten histories.

Guest-curated by Cole Root

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Scott Hocking was born in 1975 in Redford Township, Michigan. He lives and works in Detroit. After receiving his BFA from the College for Creative Studies in 2000, Hocking has been part of several group exhibitions and solo shows. Most recently, his work was featured in the Vienna Kunsthalle Project Space and The Heartland Project, an internationally touring exhibition featuring artists from the Midwest and artworks about the region. Hocking is represented by Susanne Hilberry Gallery in Ferndale, Michigan, and his works can be found in collections such as The Detroit Institute of Arts; The Smart Museum of Art, University of Chicago; and the La Napoule Art Foundation, Mandelieu-La Napoule, Côte d'Azur, France.

Cole Root is an independent curator in St. Louis. He has produced projects at Snowflake/Citystock, PSTL Gallery, Hoffman LaChance Contemporary, Boots Contemporary Art Space, and others. This summer, he will open an apartment gallery in the Cherokee Neighborhood of South St. Louis. Root is Exhibitions Manager at the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis.

Image:

Drum Mound, 2010

113 metal, plastic, and cardboard barrels, 18 x 13.5 x 11 feet.

Courtesy of the artist

General support for the Contemporary's exhibitions program is generously provided by the Whitaker Foundation; The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts; William E. Weiss Foundation; Nancy Reynolds and Dwyer Brown; Missouri Arts Council, a state agency; Regional Arts Commission; Arts and Education Council; and members of the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis.



Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis
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314 – 535 – 4660 www.contemporarystl.org

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