

Mills College  
5000 MacArthur Blvd.  
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# MILLS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**MILLS COLLEGE ART MUSEUM**

**DATE: March 2, 2010**

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## **Divergence 20.10.**

Mills College Senior Thesis Exhibition

March 30-April 18, 2010

Myla Baker, J. Journey Jones, Emily Koons, Kathleen Krassa, Emily Lebsack, Caitlan Lyons, Laura Mychal, Kathleen Rojas, Sarah Russo, Jessie Thatcher, Katie Thomas, Rebecca Waterhouse, Dena Watkins

Opening Reception: Saturday April 3, 2010, 3-5pm

Art in Action: Saturday April 10, 2010, 4-7pm

Closing Reception/Jam Session: Wednesday April 14, 2010 5-7:30pm

The Mills College Art Museum announces **Divergence 20.10.**, the senior thesis exhibition, on-view from March 30 through April 18, 2010. The artists featured in this exhibition are undergraduate students presenting their final thesis projects and have studied with Mills College faculty: Jesus Aguilar, JoAnne Bernstein, John Bischoff, Jennifer Brandon, Ken Burke, Freddy Chandra, Julie Chen, James Fei, Michael Hall, Samara Halperin, David Linger, Hung Liu, Robin McDonnell, Barbara Mendoza, Mary-Ann Milford, Anna Valentina Murch, Ron Nagle, Sean Olson, Lisa Regan, Moira Roth, Michael Temperio, Deirdre Visser, Catherine Wagner, Kathleen Walkup, Ginger Wolfe-Suarez and Ethan Worden.

**Divergence 20.10.** celebrates the fantastic artistic talent at Mills College as the graduating class launches their careers and lives in many different directions.

The artists featured in this exhibition:

**Myla Baker** creates visual personas of original drag queens. Using faux drag she explores her obsessions, collections of drag items, the illusions drag creates, and gender identity, with special attention to the traditional female gender role.

**J. Journey Jones** explores the ways in which we destroy the notion of community in the name of success and the attainment of our selfish desires. Through a layered approach she looks at our global concepts of success and how those ideas harm rather than sustain us, and the resulting adverse psychological impact.

**Emily Koons** tries to express the beauty and humor of kitsch by examining the over the top theatricality of Japan's all female Takarazuka theater.

**Kathleen Krassa** takes iconic film images from pop culture and places them within her home space, casting herself in famous roles. She emphasizes film's uncanny ability to pervade our everyday lives and become an important, referential presence within our daily routines and social interactions.

**Emily Lebsack** works with the strangeness of Western culture, her sexuality, sex work and the balance of beauty and mishap.

**Caitlan Lyons** examines utopian societies in comparison to the harsh realities of everyday life in her drawings and paintings.

**Laura Mychal's** artwork expresses a fantastical spirituality, which combines humanity, nature, and tribal "fashion."

**Kathleen Rojas** explores personal ideas of family, heritage, identity and spirituality through drawing and painting.

**Sarah Russo** explores psychological hypocrisies and deviations in society through her paintings.

**Jessie Thatcher** views her work as an extension of the traditional family portrait. Repetition, change and variation add the dimension of time to her work, which echoes the incoherency present in both her grandmother and her grandmother's past.

**Katie Thomas** is inspired by light, shadow and atmosphere, and by nature's determination. She explores the contrasts between natural forms and the man-made, often by depicting the architecture of holding and the idea that Nature is the constant subtext to our lives.

**Rebecca Waterhouse** creates oil paintings depicting food, our relation to it and contemporary food politics.

**Dena Watkins'** work aims to explore the facets of 'cute culture' by altering the context in which we view such imagery.

**Special Events:**

**Saturday, April 10, 4-7pm**

***Art in Action***

Join the Mills College Senior Undergraduate artists as they embark on a massive community art project that will be displayed for the duration of their show. Paint will be provided. Dress accordingly and have a great time participating in the graduating art student's show of 2010!

**Wednesday, April 14, 5-7:30pm**

***Closing Reception/Jam Session***

The Mills College Art Museum, founded in 1925, is a dynamic center for art that focuses on the creative work of women as artists and curators. The Museum strives to engage and inspire the diverse and distinctive cultures of the Bay Area by presenting innovative exhibitions by emerging and established national and international artists. Exhibitions are designed to challenge and invite reflection upon the profound complexities of contemporary culture.

Museum Hours are Tuesday-Sunday 11:00-4:00pm and Wednesday 11:00-7:30pm. Admission is free for all exhibitions and programs. For more information, visit <http://www.mills.edu/museum> or <http://www.mills.edu/divergence2010>

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