



For Immediate Release  
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**SAGE PROJECTS' 3rd exhibition at 333 South Street**  
*Opens May 10, 2009, reception 5-7pm, show closes May 31.*

# Tenuous Magic Parts

*I could never accept life as it was,  
I could never gobble down all of its poisons but there were parts,  
tenuous magic parts open for the asking. – Charles Bukowski*

The title of this show **Tenuous Magic Parts** are words from a poem by Charles Bukowski. The truth, grit and elegance inherent in his work are evident in this exhibition. In a Post-Post reality, where we are bombarded with images and information, it becomes increasingly difficult to cull through the "poisons" to determine what is actually relevant. What are these truths that we hold as self-evident? Are we "Cops" and "American Idol"? Or are we the pilot who saved all of those lives, landing his plane on the Hudson River? Are we Jeffrey Dahmer, or are we the friend who risks his life to save a child wandering into the street? Are we McDonald's or Le Bec Fin? The answer is we are all these things and everything in between.

**Tenuous Magic Parts**, is an exhibition curated by **Jon Manteau**. Artists in the exhibition include Heather Phillips, Paul Rodriguez, Ricardo Rivera, Dustin Metz, Ben Will and Karen Stone.

**Heather Phillip's** photographs are gritty looks into our collective living rooms. She likes bright colors, beautiful people, oddities, cameras and candy. Heather reluctantly admits to being from a suburban town in New Jersey, however her heart, mind, body and soul have been in Philadelphia since 1994. Heather received a BFA, in Photography from Tyler School of Art.

**Paul Rodriguez** paintings and drawings are a conversation and homage to our artistic and poetic past. Nostalgia and the experience of memory play a significant role in his works. Through both, he maintains a constant sense of inspiration, creating a relationship between the medium and the construction of narrative. His migration through history allows for the necessary tension between what we think an artist should do or be and what we are, through our own construction of artistic identity. He received an MFA from The University of the Arts, in 2000.

**Ricardo Rivera's** technology based art interacts with the transient nature of what is now. His feedback images represent fleeting glimpses occurring at a fraction of a second, blown up and frozen in time. He does not claim to have invented video feedback. He is but a shepherd of this chaotic analog ghost in the machine. Ricardo lives in Philadelphia, with his wife Michelle and lovely daughter Luka Berlin. He is the creative director and principal of the Klip Collective.

**Dustin Metz** paintings and drawings are about the internal and external. Where does the painting end and the world begin? His work blends the reality of the physical world and the world inside the painting. He releases everything that he is thinking, seeing, touching into the world of the painting. Once it is there, out of his head, he can look at the work for what it has become. Dustin received a BFA from Tyler School of Art.

**Ben Will's** recent works come from an examination of painting processes via the creation of two and three dimensional objects and installations. They are examinations of graphic appropriation, geometric abstraction, and the physical constructs of a painting as an object. The painterly impulse to mark is always present and integral to the creation of these objects. Together these groupings expose elements of the process of making and reading a painting. Ben received an MFA from Middlesex University in London, UK in 2003.

**Karen Stone** uses cast-off objects, toys and human hair to create shamanistic, ritualistic symbols and images. Karen received an MFA in sculpture from the University of Colorado. Karen teaches in the Art and Art History Department at Drexel University in Philadelphia.

The artists in this exhibition are searching for new meaning and narrative through photography, painting, projections, sculpture and installation. They look to challenge the traditional relationship between the art object and the exhibition space. Does art imitate life or does life imitate art? Life and art will always be tenuous, magical and the sum total of all of their parts.

**SAGE PROJECTS** 333 South Street, Philadelphia, PA. The gallery is free and open to the public Wednesdays and Thursdays 12-6pm, Saturday and Sundays 2-6pm. \$3 validated parking is available (see the website).  
For images and more information: [sagewhat@warpmail.net](mailto:sagewhat@warpmail.net) [sageset.blogspot.com](http://sageset.blogspot.com)