

## Out and About: New Image Sculpture at the McNay

March 28th, 2011 – MARGARET MEEHAN

Humor and play pervade the exhibition *New Image Sculpture* at the McNay Art Museum (<http://www.mcnayart.org/>) in San Antonio. It features thirteen contemporary artists and art collectives and was organized by René Paul Barilleaux, the McNay's Chief Curator and Curator of Art after 1945.

These artists make things we see or at least understand as everyday objects in the real world. They are sculpture, paintings, and installations out of nontraditional, primarily craft materials.

The Austin-based collective Okay Mountain (<http://okaymountain.com/>)'s hysterical installation is a combination torture rack/exercise machine. Personally my favorite part of the workout equipment is *Dragging Rock* that is simply a large rock attached to a rope. This piece proves that not only the labor intensive and compulsive but also the irreverent and smart are stand outs in this exhibition. Inspired in part by the McNay's collection of Spanish colonial paraphernalia the installation compares and contrasts what could be the brutal torture equipment of the Spanish Inquisition against contemporary ideas of exercise and fitness all in what seems to be rudimentary carpentry skills. This work is made mostly of wood, metal and leather and is one of the few works that gets its own room and does not seem crowded in this over abundant exhibition.



Okay Mountain Collective

*New Image Sculpture* is on view at the McNay till May 8th, 2011 and features the work of: Conrad Bakker, Libby Black, Tom Burckhardt, Margarita Cabrera, Chris Hanson and Hendrika Sonnenberg, Dennis Harper, Kiel Johnson, Kevin Landers, Jean Lowe, Okay Mountain, Kaz Oshiro, Mark Schatz, and Jade Townsend.