



Allison Schulnik in MATRIX 168 Is Gutsy, Surreal

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Mark Moore Gallery artist **Allison Schulnik** will be featured in MATRIX 168 curated by Patricia Hickson at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art. Allison Schulnik's paintings, sculptures, and clay animations show a relish for gutsy, expressionistic, surreal forms. Bright colors emerge through an overall dark palette, as paintings and clay animations alike take on the sense of an ever-morphing figure. The figures of hobos, clowns, and motley creatures intertwine into the environment and each other, forming moments of abstraction and then a semblance of representation again.

About MATRIX

MATRIX, a changing exhibition of contemporary art, was initially funded in 1974 as an experimental pilot project with a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. Since its first exhibition in January 1975, MATRIX has shown more than one thousand works of art by more than 160 artists. For many distinguished artists, including Richard Tuttle, Neil Jenney, Jon Borofsky, Daniel Buren, Sylvia Plimack Mangold, Nancy Spero, Louise Lawler, Barbara Kruger, Gerhard Richter, Lorna Simpson, Carrie Mae Weems, and Glenn Ligon, their MATRIX show at the Wadsworth Atheneum was their first one-person museum exhibition in the United States. Half of the artists have been in their thirties or younger, and more than one-third did not have an affiliation with a commercial gallery at the time of their MATRIX experience. MATRIX has inspired more than fifty programs across the country, including the MATRIX Program at the UC Berkeley Art Museum.

From its inception, MATRIX has been a forum for art that is challenging, current and sometimes controversial. Through clear explanation and thoughtful engagement with the viewer, MATRIX exhibitions call into question preconceptions about art and increase understanding of its possibilities.

About Allison Schulnik

Influenced by kindred artists of the past such as the macabre Belgian painter James Ensor (1860-1949), Schulnik continues in a vein of surreal imagery that is haunting, mournful, and beautiful all at once. In her first museum exhibition, her paintings persist in the exploration of fantastic figures and characters on the fringes of society. The exhibition will also include all four of her animated films: *Hobo Clown* (2008), *Forest* (2009), and *Mound* (2011) - in addition to a new film she is working on now that will debut in December 2013.

Schulnik was born in San Diego in 1978 and currently lives and works in Los Angeles. She received a BFA in experimental animation from the California Institute of the Arts. In addition to art making, she has a background in dance and is also a musician. Her works can be seen in notable collections including the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego; the Santa Barbara Museum of Art; the Chaney Family Collection; the Musée des beaux-arts, Montreal; and the Farnsworth Art Museum, Rockland, Maine.

Source: <http://www.eyesin.com/art/2013/allison-schulnik-in-matrix-168-is-gutsy-surreal/>