

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bearing Witness: Daniel Heyman



***Laband Art Gallery Presents First West Coast Exhibition of
Daniel Heyman's Portraits of Former Abu Ghraib Detainees
January 15 – March 13, 2011***

LOS ANGELES – The Laband Art Gallery at LMU will open ***Bearing Witness: Daniel Heyman*** on January 15, 2011. There will be an opening reception and reading by Heyman's collaborator, Nick Flynn on Thursday, January 20 from 4-6:30 p.m.

Bearing Witness: Daniel Heyman features portraits of individuals who have endured great personal hardship – former Abu Ghraib detainees, African American fathers who have been in and out of jail, and new immigrants to the United States.

Heyman incorporates the subject's own words into his compositions. Robin Wagner-Pacifici writes, "in doing so, [Heyman's] portraits restore dignity and individuality to those who have been deprived of their most basic human rights."

Daniel Heyman is a painter and a printmaker and a very good listener. He had the rare opportunity to accompany human rights lawyers to Amman and Istanbul between 2005 and 2008 to sit in on interviews with dozens of former Abu Ghraib Prison detainees. While the men opened up about the atrocities they had suffered, Heyman drew their portraits and interwove excerpts of their testimony onto engraving plates or sheets of paper. He worked quickly expressly making sure to complete the portraits by the end of the interview sessions. Their lives had been so damaged and their words had been so twisted at the hands of others, that Heyman wanted to give as direct a translation as possible. Susan Burke, the attorney who invited Heyman to be a part of these interviews, had the incredible foresight to understand the power of art to disseminate these men's horrific stories. Heyman had the artistic sensitivity to convey their experiences with great respect.

Other gouaches and prints in the exhibition explore the Iraqi war and the United States' war on terrorism from different perspectives. A large scale (10 x 12 foot) etching on ply-wood entitled *When Photographers Are Blinded, Eagles' Wings Are Clipped* (2009-10) examines our limited access to images and news of what is happening in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other parts of the world. A portrait of a young, retired Marine who was stationed at Guantanamo gives insight into the high toll that war takes on the lives of soldiers.

Closer to home, Heyman used the same artistic process in Philadelphia when he painted portraits in 2008 and 2009 of another group of individuals who have had little opportunity to tell their stories. He met seven poor, recently incarcerated African American fathers who were making a great effort to turn their lives around. Heyman wrote, "I was impressed by the honesty with which they shared their thoughts and their life stories." What began for him as a limited commission for a one-day "Philly Fathers" exhibition three years ago has grown to a seven portrait series of fractured, but healing, urban lives.

Hot off the press is a new series of lithographs that Heyman created at North Dakota University. This series of portraits with words focuses on recent immigrants to the United States and the struggles they endured in their former countries and here in

the U.S.. Osob, a woman from Somalia, walked from Mogadishu to Kenya with her family; her father was kidnapped by partisan militias along the way. When she arrived in Texas, she suffered further abuse getting beat up everyday on her way to school. She and her family eventually moved to Minnesota where they found a more welcoming community of other Somalis.

MORE ABOUT DANIEL HEYMAN

Daniel Heyman is a painter and printmaker. His work has been exhibited in major institutions nationwide including the Hood Museum of Art (2009), the Nathan Cummings Foundation (2009), the Princeton University Museum of Art (2009), The Katzen Center at American University (2008), the Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art at SUNY New Paltz (2008), the Renaissance Society at the University of Chicago (2007), and the New York Public Library (2007). His work has been acquired by such notable public collections as the New York Public Library, Yale University Gallery, Baltimore Museum of Art, University of Iowa Museum of Art, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Princeton University Museum of Art, and the Library of Congress.

As part of Philagrafika 2010, Heyman had a solo show at the List Gallery of Swarthmore College; it traveled to the Zilkha Gallery at Wesleyan University. Heyman had two acclaimed solo exhibitions in 2008 and 2009: "Abu Ghraib Detainee Interview Project" at the DePaul University Museum in Chicago, and "Eye Witness" at the University of Iowa Museum of Art. "Visage: Portraits by Chris Bartlett and Daniel Heyman" at the McIninch Art Gallery at Southern New Hampshire University featured Heyman's drawn portraits and Bartlett's photographic portraits of former Abu Ghraib detainees. Heyman's work was shown in recent group exhibitions: "A War Exhibition" at Carleton College, and "Shelter" at the Painted Bride in Philadelphia, "People" at Jim Kempner Fine Art. He has also shown at the International Print Center, North Dakota Museum of Art, the Duluth Art Institute, BRIC Gallery (Brooklyn), and the Bernstein Gallery of the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University.

Daniel Heyman was awarded a 2010 Guggenheim Foundation Grant, a 2009 Pew Fellowship in the Arts, AMJ Foundation Grant, Independence Foundation Grant, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts S.O.S. Grant, three Professional Development Grants from the Rhode Island School of Design, and a James B. Reynolds International Fellowship from Dartmouth College. [**www.danielheyman.com**](http://www.danielheyman.com)

EXHIBITION CATALOGUE

An illustrated publication accompanies the exhibition and features essays by Daniel Heyman, Robin Wagner-Pacifici, Professor of Sociology at Swarthmore College, playwright Kathleen Tolan, and Ibrahim Helalsah, translator for the Istanbul interviews. It also includes poetry by Nick Flynn.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Nick Flynn Reading and Opening Reception

Thursday, January 20, 4p.m. (Reading) 5:30-7p.m (Reception)

Writer and poet, Nick Flynn will read from his new book *Ticking is The Bomb* (2010) and from his poems *Redacted* (2010), a portfolio of poetry and etchings that he created in collaboration with Daniel Heyman. Flynn accompanied Heyman to Istanbul where they sat in on interviews with former Abu Ghraib detainees. This experience was the subject of a chapter in his book *Ticking is The Bomb* and a February 2008 article of the same title in *Esquire Magazine*. Flynn is the author of *Another Bullshit Night in Suck City* (2004) which won the PEN/Martha Albrand Award, was shortlisted for France's Prix Femina, and has been translated into thirteen languages. Flynn's reading will be followed by a discussion with LMU English Professor Rubén Martinez and a reception.

Exploring Legal Issues in Daniel Heyman's Art

At Loyola Law School: January 13, dates in February and March TBD

At Laband Art Gallery: Dates TBD

This series of discussions with Loyola Law School professors and practicing attorneys will explore the complexities of the legal issues addressed in Daniel Heyman's art work – Civil and Criminal Legal Issues in time of war, Legal Issues and Challenges in American Prisons, and Immigration Law. Laband Art Gallery Director and Curator Carolyn Peter will introduce Heyman's art as a take-off point for each of the talks.

Daniel Heyman in Conversation with Human Rights Lawyer Rosemary Healy and Closing Party

Saturday, March 12, 3p.m. (Conversation), 4-6p.m. (Reception)

Artist Daniel Heyman will join Human Rights attorney Rosemary Healy in conversation about their experiences interviewing former Abu Ghraib detainees and victims of the Blackwater Nisour Square Massacre from 2005 to 2008. They will share their unique perspectives as an artist and an attorney and will discuss the

subsequent twists and turns that their work has taken since those interviews. A reception in honor of Heyman and his exhibition will follow.

More public programs are in the works... Please see the gallery's website for the most up-to-date information on additional programming in conjunction with this exhibition. <http://cfa.lmu.edu/laband>

EXHIBITION ORGANIZERS AND SUPPORT

The exhibition was co-organized by the Laband Art Gallery, Loyola Marymount University, and the Linfield Gallery, Linfield College. Carolyn Peter, director and curator of the Laband Art Gallery and Cris Moss, director and curator of the Linfield Gallery, Linfield College co-curated the exhibition. Earlier versions of the exhibition were presented at the Zilkha Gallery at Wesleyan University and the List Gallery, Swarthmore College.

The exhibition and the related programs have been made possible in part by the generous support of the College of Communication and Fine Arts, LMU's English Department, *The Truth About the Fact International Journal of Literary Nonfiction*, LMU's Creative Writing Program, LMU's Department of Art and Art History, and the Los Angeles Printmaking Society.

ABOUT THE LABAND

The Laband Art Gallery opened in 1984 as part of the Fritz B. Burns Fine Arts Center with a generous gift from Walter and Francine Laband.

LABAND ART GALLERY INFORMATION

For current program and exhibition information, call 310-338-2880 or visit <http://cfa.lmu.edu/laband>.

Hours: Wednesday through Sunday, noon to 4 p.m.; closed Mondays and Tuesdays.

Admission: Admission and parking are free.

Location/Parking: The Gallery is in the Fritz B. Burns Fine Arts Center on the LMU campus. Enter the campus at Lincoln and LMU Drive. Kiosk attendant will direct you to parking and the gallery. For a map of the school, visit: www.lmu.edu/maps.

Image Caption:

Daniel Heyman
The Broomstick Was Metal, 2008
Gouache on Nishinouchi paper
29 ¼ x 41 ½ inches
Courtesy of the artist