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*for immediate release*

**PORTRAITS THAT ‘SPEAK’ AMONG DANIEL HEYMAN’S NEW WORK TO SEE THIS SPRING**  
“Bearing Witness at Swarthmore and Wesleyan; Philagrafika Salons and Shows; and More

(Philadelphia – 5 February 2010) “I was in the cage seven days.” One of the details of abuse by American



forces that Sadik Saturi al-Dailami related to American human rights attorneys in Istanbul after his release from Abu Ghraib prison in 2008. Painter and printmaker Daniel Heyman was there, too, in Istanbul and also in Amman from 2005 to 2008, sitting in on dozens of interviews with women and men whose unjust imprisonment and ill-treatment came to define a new, post 9-11 word: “detainee.” Heyman layered their testimony in words over their interview portraits; a dress shirt and tie and the words, “After my hand was broken (fingers stepped on by England), I passed out. Then she dragged me.”

“Today I recognize the importance of life.” Closer to home, in 2008 and 2009 Heyman began painting another group with little opportunity to tell their stories: poor, recently incarcerated African American Philadelphians, all of them fathers. With guidance from the National Comprehensive Center for Fathers, these men progressed from inexperienced parents with uncertain futures to responsible members of their communities . Says Heyman, “I was impressed by the honesty with which they shared their thoughts and their life stories.” And what began for him as a limited commission for a one-day “Philly Fathers” exhibition two years ago has grown to a seven portrait collection of fractured, but healing, urban lives.



“Bearing Witness” features portraits of both groups. Iraqi former detainees, African Americans former felons; each has his own story. The renderings of prisoners released from Iraq’s Abu Ghraib prison gave humanity and a voice to that cohort of men and women bound together by survival. In similar fashion, the Philly Fathers works allow the viewer not only to see the men but also hear them.

Swarthmore Professor of Sociology Robin Wagner-Pacifi’s catalog essay further explores the juxtaposition,

*Heyman's portraits, with their selective inclusion of excerpts of sworn testimony, emphasize the subjects' professional and familial roles—fundamental aspects of our social and personal identity. In doing so, the portraits restore dignity and individuality to those who have been deprived of their most basic human rights.*

Part of the experience of "Bearing Witness" is a 10x14' plywood wall printed with provocative images that question our understanding of the mideast wars, that literally blocks visitors' free movement by defining a narrow path for entrance into the gallery beyond. Heyman admits that these could be interpreted as informational or confrontational. "Without the wall, it might be too easy to look at the portraits and think, 'this is all past, everything's returned to normal,' when it hasn't," explained Heyman.

The exhibition's catalog is highlighted by new essays from a remarkable range of experience: Kathleen Tolan, playwright; Robin Wagner-Pacifici, sociologist; Nick Flynn, poet and memoirist; and Ibrahim Helalsah, professional translator in Istanbul. Also, the testimony of Taha, an Abu Ghraib torture victim who shared his memories with Heyman during an interview in 2008 in Istanbul, is included in these pages. Though his words were originally collected by me in paint and ink on paper, his words are transcribed in the catalog so that they can speak without the accompanying distractions of the artwork.

Concurrent with "Bearing Witness" at the McCabe Library at Swarthmore is "Printmakers Go to War: Works by Daniel Heyman in collaboration with Nick Flynn, Damian Cote, Eric Avery, and Michael Reed." Curated by Heyman, this group show leverages both the documentary and diaristic aspects of printmaking and bookmaking. The artists featured critique institutionalized violence and reassert imaginative space for compassionate endeavors.

And, additional to both exhibitions is a public symposium on March 20, "Artists in Wartime: Bearing Witness/Shaping a Response" with participants Janine Mileaf, Assistant Professor of Art History, Swarthmore; Damian Cote, Artist and former Marine stationed at Guantanamo Bay; Juan Manuel Echavarria, Artist; Daniel Heyman, Artist, Visiting Associate Professor of Studio Art at Swarthmore, RISD, and Princeton University; and Laurel Reuter, Director, North Dakota Museum of Art. Following the symposium, Heyman's frequent artistic collaborator, poet and writer Nick Flynn, will read from his new memoir "The Ticking is the Bomb."

"Bearing Witness" travels to Wesleyan University's Ezra and Cecile Zilkha Gallery from April 24 to May 23.

### **Complete Calendar of Exhibitions & Events Winter-Spring 2010 (\*part of Philagrafika 2010)**

Thru March 22, 2010

#### ***Close Encounters: Acts of Social Imagination***

Denison Museum, Denison University, Granville, OH

Group show with Allora & Calzadilla, Mel Chin, Ester Partegas, Jeremy Deller, Trevor Paglen, Jenny Holzer, Annabel Daou, Ligorano/Reese, Floating Lab Collective, Cory Arcangel, and Jefferson Pinder.

Thru April 18, 2010

#### ***\* Selections from C.R. Ettinger Studio***

The C.R. Ettinger Studio specializes in etchings, and included will be 50+ works demonstrating the versatility of the etching medium today. Heyman has four prints in this show, plus a 7' etching on wood sculpture -- a preview of what will be on view at Swarthmore's List Gallery from March 4 - April 9.

Women's Board Gallery, Hamilton Hall, Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia

<http://www.philagrafika2010.org/node/72>

February 24, 2010

Artist Talk: 12-1pm, Hamilton Auditorium, PAFA

**\* Bearing Witness to War When All the Photographers Are Blinded**

about my work with Iraqi civilians victimized by war, highlighting my most recent and metaphorical series of etchings printed on wood constructions that concern the impossibility of bearing witness when the hard facts of a war are kept out of public view.

[http://www.pafa.org/Calendar/Event-Detail/431/eventtypeid\\_\\_7897/calld\\_\\_12906/](http://www.pafa.org/Calendar/Event-Detail/431/eventtypeid__7897/calld__12906/)

March 4 – April 9, 2010

**\* Bearing Witness, Recent Works by Daniel Heyman**

List Gallery, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA

Artist Lecture: March 4, 4:30pm; Reception to follow: 5:30-7pm

<http://www.swarthmore.edu/Humanities/art/Gallery/>

March 4 – April 9, 2010

**\* Printmakers go to War: Works by Daniel Heyman in collaboration with Nick Flynn, Damian Cote, Eric Avery, and Michael Reed**

McCabe Library, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore PA

Leveraging both the documentary and diaristic aspects of printmaking and bookmaking, the featured artists critique institutionalized violence and reassert imaginative space for compassionate endeavors.

<http://www.philagrafika2010.org/node/105>

March 9, 2010

**\* First Person Arts Artists' Salon and Film Screening**

7-10pm, Bryn Mawr Film Institute, Bryn Mawr, PA

Word and image. The combination has penetrated the genres of memoir and documentary, creating new ways to ponder real-life experience and events. Three leading artists – Daniel Heyman, Jamar Nicholas, and Josh Neufeld – to present their work and discuss how they create it. Followed by a screening of *Persepolis*, based on the graphic memoir by Marjane Satrapi.

<http://www.philagrafika2010.org/node/235>

March 19 – June 18, 2010

**\* Mark/Remarque: A Collaborative Portfolio and Other Work by Philadelphia Printmakers**

The Free Library of Philadelphia, Central Branch

Artists included: Cindy Back, Katie Baldwin, Nancy Citrino, Joan Curran, Dan Dallmann, Kip Deeds, Amze Emmons, Don Forsythe, Chris Hartshorne, Richard Hricko, Daniel Heyman, Sarah McEneaney, Matthew Neff, Caitlin Perkins, Serena Perrone, Mary Phelan, Celia Reisman, Tony Rosati, Ron Rumford, Carrie Scanga, Bill Scott, Patty Smith, Hester Stinnett, Evan Summer, Shelley Thorstensen, Rochelle Toner, John Williams, and Eva Wylie.

<http://www.philagrafika2010.org/node/93>

March 20, 2010

**\* Artists in Wartime: Bearing Witness/Shaping a Response**

Symposium: March 20, 9:30am - 12pm, Lang Performing Arts Center Cinema

Reception: 12-1pm, McCabe lobby; Reading by Nick Flynn at 1pm

March 26, 2010

**\* Eyewitness News: When Prints Were Truth**

Panel discussion: 1:30 pm - 3pm

Tyler School of Art, Auditorium, Temple University, Philadelphia

Panelists Gerard Brown, Tyler School of Art; Joshua Brown, Executive Director, American Social History Project & Professor, CUNY Graduate Center; Michael Sappol, Ph.D., History of Medicine Division of the National Library of Medicine; and Daniel Heyman will discuss images as documents in times of modern war. Each will discuss the relationship between verbal testimony and photographic images as source material and the prints that ultimately circulate as embodiments of the information they address.

April 24 - May 23, 2010

***Bearing Witness, Recent Works by Daniel Heyman: Stories from the Front Lines***

Ezra and Cecile Zilkha Gallery, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT

Artist Lecture: April 23, 5:30pm; Reception 5-7pm

<http://www.wesleyan.edu/cfa/events.html#exhibitions>

**Heyman in Recent Publications**

Artblog: "Wimpel! Wrapped Wishes at the PMJA," January 14, 2010

City Paper's Critical Mass: "FIRST FRIDAY FOCUS: A Q&A with Daniel Heyman," November 5, 2009

New Hampshire Public Radio: "Portraits After Torture," September 30, 2009

The Boston Globe: "Catching the Cape in restless motion," August 12, 2009

**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.

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. Other recent exhibitions include "Visage: Portraits by Chris Bartlett and Daniel Heyman" at the McIninch Art Gallery at Southern New Hampshire University, "A War Exhibition" at Carleton College, "Shelter" at the Painted Bride in Philadelphia. Heyman's work was shown in group exhibitions at Jim Kempner Fine Art ("People," 2008); the International Print Center (2009 and 2007), North Dakota Museum of Art, the Duluth Art Institute, BRIC Gallery (Brooklyn), and the Bernstein Gallery of the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University. As part of Philagrafika 2010, in March 2010 Heyman will have a solo show, "Bearing Witness," at the List Gallery of Swarthmore College and will participate in exhibitions at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and University of the Arts. He will present at the College Art Association in Chicago in February 2010, and the Southern Graphics Council Conference in Philadelphia, in March 2010.

Daniel Heyman was awarded 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.

Heyman's residencies include Yaddo, the MacDowell Colony, St. Michael's College, the Nagasawa Art Park Printmaking Program, and the Millay Colony for the Arts.

Heyman's work is featured in *Male Desire: Homosexual Desire in American Art* (2005), *Virginia Quarterly Review* ("Art Born of the Need to Tell" by Laurel Reuter, 2007), *The Best American Non-Required Reading* 2009, *Esquire* ("The Ticking is the Bomb: A Memoir of Torture" by Nick Flynn, 2008), and has been reviewed by *The New York Times*, *Art in America*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *The Boston Globe*, *artblog*, *The Hartford Courant*, *France Ouest*, and *The Sydney Morning Herald*. As a teacher, Heyman has taught at Swarthmore College, Tyler School of Art, Fashion Institute of Technology, Centre International des Arts Contemporain (Pont Aven, France), and Philadelphia University. Currently, Heyman teaches at Rhode Island School of Design and Princeton University.

Heyman earned an MFA from the University of Pennsylvania and is a cum laude graduate of Dartmouth College. He lives in Philadelphia. To view his work, please visit [www.danielheyman.com](http://www.danielheyman.com).

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