



CONTEMPORARY IMAGES IN PRINT SINCE 1915

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***Fiat Lux: Stefan Abrams, Micah Danges, James Johnson,
Anna Neighbor and Brent Wahl***

April 5 - May 24, 2013

Thursday, April 11: Reception 5:30-7:30pm

PHILADELPHIA: -(March 26, 2013)- *Fiat Lux* is a group exhibition of work by five emerging Philadelphia artists: **Stefan Abrams, Micah Danges, James Johnson, Anna Neighbor** and **Brent Wahl**. While each of the artists was trained as a photographer and has taught photography at universities and art schools in Philadelphia, none has a simple or straightforward relationship with the medium. Though photography is central to the work of all these artists, their explorations of the potentials and shortcomings of the medium result in a surprisingly diverse group of artworks. Abrams' close-up images of surfaces challenge traditional conceptions of street photography. Danges, Johnson and Neighbor utilize collage and sculpture to make works that comment on the processes of photography. Wahl creates sculptural installations which he then photographs. The exhibition title has a dual reference; it is the Latin phrase meaning "Let there be light," and is also the name of an English pop band, whose song "Photography" was a hit in 1983.

The work of all five artists responds to successive earlier generations of photo-based artists who questioned and challenged established notions of photography. At the same time, they are addressing the overwhelming proliferation of photographic images in today's society and how it relates to making art. A recent *New Yorker* cartoon captures the bewildering relationship we have with this flood of imagery. In it, a tourist mother offers the father her digital camera saying "Look at the picture I took of the thing we're looking at."

The exhibition was organized in an innovative way. John Caperton, The Print Center's Jensen Bryan Curator, worked in conjunction with the five artists, collaborating as a group on the planning of the installation. Over a period of months, the group visited each artist's studio together to discuss how their works interrelated. The checklist and installation plan for the exhibition were collaboratively planned. Some of the works included have been created specifically for the exhibition, while others will be shown for the first time. *Fiat Lux* continues The Print Center's explorations into the significance of the printed image in contemporary art. It also highlights the creative diversity of Philadelphia's artist community.

Stefan Abrams received an MFA in Photography from Tyler School of Art, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA, 2006 and a BA in History from the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT, 1992. His work has been included in recent exhibitions at Arcadia University Art Gallery, Glenside, PA; Pierro Gallery, South Orange, NJ; Vox Populi, Philadelphia, PA and X-Initiative, New York, NY. He has received two Pennsylvania Council on the Arts Fellowships. He teaches Photography and the History of Photography at Moore College of Art & Design, Philadelphia, PA and The College of New Jersey, Ewing, NJ. www.stefanabrams.com

Micah Danges received a BFA in Photography from Kutztown University, Kutztown, PA, 2001. His work has been included in recent exhibitions at Bodega Gallery, Fleisher Art Memorial, Fleisher/Ollman Gallery, Rebekah Templeton Gallery and Vox Populi all Philadelphia, PA. www.micahdanges.com

James Johnson received an MFA in Photography from the Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY, 2002, and a BFA in Photography & Graphic Design from Marywood University, Scranton, PA, 1999. His work has been included in recent exhibitions at Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, PA; Contemporary Museum, Baltimore, MD; Fleisher/Ollman Gallery, Philadelphia, PA; Lump, Raleigh, NC; Maryland Art Place, Baltimore, MD; Oakland University Art Gallery, Rochester, MI; and Space Gallery, Portland, ME. He teaches Photography and Digital Arts at Moore College of Art & Design, Philadelphia, PA. www.cargocollective.com/jamesjohnson

Anna Neighbor received an MFA in Photography from Tyler School Art, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA, 2006 and a BFA in Photography from New York University, New York, NY, 2000. Her work has been included in recent exhibitions at Greenlease Gallery, Kansas City, MO; Fleisher Art Memorial, Rebekah Templeton Gallery and Vox Populi, all Philadelphia, PA. She teaches Photography, Digital Arts and History of Photography at the University of Pennsylvania and Moore College of Art & Design in Philadelphia. www.annaneighbor.com

Brent Wahl received an MFA in Photography from the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, 2006 and his BFA in Photography from Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY, 1992. His work has been included in recent exhibitions at Arcadia University Art Gallery, Glenside, PA; Dumbo Art Center, Brooklyn, NY; Space Gallery, Portland, ME; Philadelphia Photo Art Center, Vox Populi, Slought Foundation and the Institute of Contemporary Art, all Philadelphia, PA. He teaches Photography at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. www.brentwahl.com

Fiat Lux will be on view April 5 - May 24, 2013. The opening reception is Thursday, April 11 from 5:30-7:30pm, with a gallery talk by the artists at 5:30pm. A panel discussion with the artists and moderated by Caperton, on the potentials and shortcomings of photography, will be held on Wednesday, May 1, at 6:00pm. Both events are free and open to the public.

This exhibition is made possible by special project support from the Edna W. Andrade Fund of The Philadelphia Foundation.

The Print Center supports printmaking and photography as vital contemporary arts and encourages the appreciation of the printed image in all its forms. The Print Center presents a variety of programs for the public including exhibitions; The Print Center Gallery Store, which offers the largest and most diverse selection of contemporary prints in Philadelphia; the longest running annual international competition for prints and photographs in the country; and an extensive series of education programs and special events. HOURS: Tuesday – Saturday 11:00am-6:00pm