

THE SCULPTURE CENTER

1834 EAST 123RD STREET, CLEVELAND, OHIO 44106-1910

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News Release

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PDF and high resolution images available at

<http://www.sculpturecenter.org/press.html>

Thomas Grafton Lee: Suspended A Window to Sculpture Emerging Artist Exhibition Opening on April 27

The Sculpture Center presents **Thomas Grafton Lee: Suspended, a Window to Sculpture Emerging Artist Exhibition**, from April 27 through May 26. On Friday, April 27 from 5 to 8 PM, join the free, public **Opening** to meet the artist. Thomas Grafton Lee will give an informal **Artist's Talk** in the gallery at 6:30 PM.

With found household objects and scrap metal from his immediate neighborhood, Thomas Grafton Lee creates installations and sculpture that is replete with social, political, and emotional content, while simultaneously providing a post-modern discourse on the fundamental issues of sculpture. Lee, a 2006 BA graduate of Cleveland State University, is currently living in Baltimore, Maryland, with a studio in a former textile factory. His disadvantaged urban community is in constant upheaval because of the dislocations from drug related violence, evictions, and building abandonment.

In *Suspended Dreams* (2006), a battered double bed floats askew between ceiling and floor on strands of sewing thread, so seemingly precariously held that it bobs in the slightest air current. The installation speaks directly to the loss of opportunities and the impossible achievement of personal dreams while, at the same time, it calls into question such sculptural concerns as materiality, weightiness, substance, and beauty of form and surface. *If I Could, I Would, I'll Try* (2006), an enormous, jumbled stack of discarded chairs, improbably balanced on a single chair, makes a similar commentary. The artist Lee says, "Growing something improbable out of the refuse in the streets, I created *If I Could, I Would, I'll Try* in the spirit of overcoming abandonment." *Suspended Play* (2007), with children's green Army men entangled in a mesh of threads across a doorway, speaks to current political issues.

A second body of work, assemblages made of steel, twine, bark, and silk, more indirectly addresses issues of disparity and connection while exploring the formal contrast between geometrically shaped steel and home made cordage.

About Thomas Grafton Lee

Lee studied architecture at Roger Williams University, Bristol, RI (2000), theater design at Towson State University, Olney, MD (2001-2003), and traveled in Europe (2003), before arriving in Cleveland by happenstance. He graduated from Cleveland State University (BA, 2006) and is completing his studies for a Post Baccalaureate Certificate from the Maryland Institute College of Art (2007). This fall he will begin his MA work at Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, MI.

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Thomas Grafton Lee, *Suspended Dreams*, 2006, thread, bed, dimensions variable



Thomas Grafton Lee, *If I Could, I Would, I'll Try*, 2006, chairs, dimensions variable

About the Window to Sculpture Emerging Artist Series

Through the Window to Sculpture Emerging Artist Series, now in its sixteenth year, The Sculpture Center fosters the careers of talented Ohio sculptors who have completed an arts degree or apprenticeship, but have not yet had a one-person exhibition. Through an open call for artists who have a connection to Ohio, whether by birth, residency, or schooling, 4-6 sculptors per year are chosen for a one-person exhibition and accompanying brochure.

About The Sculpture Center

The Sculpture Center is located in Cleveland's University Circle neighborhood at 1834 East 123rd Street, off Euclid Avenue, beside Lake View Cemetery and two blocks from Little Italy. The Sculpture Center gallery is open Wednesday through Friday from 10 am to 4 pm, Saturday from noon to 4 pm, and other times by appointment. The Sculpture Center offices are open weekdays from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Programs and hours are subject to change. Admission, parking, public receptions, and gallery talks are free. The Sculpture Center is handicapped accessible.

The Sculpture Center is a not-for-profit 501[c]3 arts organization dedicated to enrichment, education, enjoyment, and visual enhancement of the community at large through sculpture. It has a particular commitment to fostering the careers of emerging Ohio sculptors and the preservation of Ohio outdoor sculpture. The Sculpture Center is generously funded by grants from The Bernice & David E. Davis Art Foundation, the Kulas Foundation, and the John P. Murphy Foundation and by private donations.

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