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Photos and complete biographies available on request

DARKFIRE

Sean Caulfield



**Fire on a later November day
Peering through a dark wood
Smoke poking these eyes**

**Branches hands lifting heavenward
The cylinder of the world bleeding
Blood, tears, horns, cries**

**Silent as black and grey, what could
Slips into the solstice, stone circles
Weeping the ritual of my heart**

Opening Reception - Friday, May 13, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Artist talk at 6:30 p.m.

Exhibition on view May 13 – June 24, 2011

Main Gallery

Houston, TX - **Art League Houston** is delighted to announce ***Darkfire***, an exciting collaborative exhibition by Canadian artist **Sean Caulfield** and Canadian writer **Jonathan Hart (typography and design by Sue Colberg)**, which features a series of intaglio prints and poems inspired by passages of text from Dante's epic poem *The Divine Comedy* describing bodies and environments' in transformation. The opening reception is **Friday, May 13 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.** with an artist talk at **6:30 p.m.**

Darkfire presents a series of twenty wall dependant intaglio with ten corresponding poems, which explore themes of technological change, biological decay, mutation and metamorphosis. The works depict a disintegrating world of darkness, populated with anthropomorphic-looking machines that appear man-made in one light and organic in another, reflecting the constantly changing biological and technological environments in our everyday lives.

Art League Houston, 1953 Montrose Boulevard, Houston, Texas 77006

Seductive yet menacing, and familiar yet strange, Caulfield's imagery fluctuates between themes of hope and fear. Mysterious forms are plunged into rich landscapes of black and grey while others emerge from silent pools of water, wounded and leaking, spewing tentacles of fire into unseen landscapes.

By tapping into society's fear of an apocalyptic future, Caulfield and Hart develop a provocative aesthetic, which encourages the viewer to reflect upon changes in the environment. *Darkfire* not only celebrates the powerful relationship between imagery and language, but also embraces the transcendental qualities that continue to exist within Dante's compelling literature.

About Sean Caulfield

Sean Caulfield is a Professor in the Department of Art and Design at the University of Alberta, and has exhibited his prints, drawings and book works extensively throughout Canada, the United States, Europe, and Japan. Recent exhibitions include: *Perceptions of Promise*, Glenbow Museum, *Return to the Surface*, Davidson Gallery, Seattle, WA, USA, *Imagining Science*, Art Gallery of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta; among others.

Caulfield has received numerous grants and awards for his work including: Triennial Prize at the *2nd Bangkok Triennial International Print and Drawing Exhibition*, Bangkok, Thailand; SSHRC Fine Arts Creation Grant; Canada Council Travel Grant; and a Visual Arts Fellowship, Illinois Arts Council, Illinois, USA. Caulfield's work is in various public and private collections including: Houghton Library, Harvard University, USA, Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, England; Blanton Museum of Art, University of Texas at Austin, Texas, USA, among others.

About Jonathan Hart

Jonathan Hart teaches at the University of Alberta and has held visiting appointments at Harvard, Toronto, Cambridge, Princeton, the Sorbonne Nouvelle and elsewhere. His scholarly books include *Empires and Colonies* (2008); *Shakespeare: Poetry, History, and Culture* (2009); *Shakespeare and His Contemporaries* (2011) and *Literature, Theory, History* (forthcoming). His most recent books of poetry are *Dreamwork* (2010) and *Musing* (2011).

ABOUT ART LEAGUE HOUSTON

Art League Houston is one of Houston's longest operating non-profit visual arts organizations and was the first alternative art space in Texas. Founded in 1948 and incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1953, Art League Houston (ALH) was created to promote the public appreciation of and interest in the visual arts. During the past 62 years, ALH has provided over 785 exhibitions to the Houston community, showcased the work of nearly 12,000 artists, and instructed over 36,000 students through the Art League School and outreach programs.

OUR MISSION

The mission of Art League Houston is to cultivate awareness, appreciation, and accessibility of contemporary visual art within the community for its cultural enrichment.

SUPPORT

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This project is supported in part by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts.

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