

# Public displays of art

By Andrew Johnson  
and Rochelle Hentges  
TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Four times a year, the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust opens up a dozen Downtown galleries for perusal and free libations. Tonight, they invite you to "crawl" through the exhibits from 5:30 to 9

## 'EQUIPOISE: COUPLES EXHIBITION'

Eleven romantic couples were asked to work together to create a piece of art together — something many of the artists had never done before. Carolina Loyola-Garcia, 34, and Andres Tapia-Urzu, 43, of East Liberty, formed a multimedia display of video footage, ranging from their daughter playing to naked people dancing on vacation in San Francisco, flanked by photographs of them sleeping in bed.

**Trib p.m.: What did you think when curator Erin O'Neill first approached you about taking part in the couples exhibit?**

**Loyola-Garcia:** He's nuts. (laughing)



JAMES E. KNOX/TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Andres Tapia-Urzu and Carolina Loyola-Garcia.

**Tapia-Urzu:** I thought it was fun. We had never worked together as a couple. It's beyond art, because it's almost like your marriage is at stake if your art is a failure.

**p.m.: How does the art reflect you as a couple?**

**Loyola-Garcia:** For me, I interpreted the whole development as the state I've been in since I had our daughter, this kind of limbo space.

You're always awake and aware of this other being, but you're also tired. So I tried to recreate that state of mind in the video.

**Tapia-Urzu:** It's interesting because it's different for me. ... It is more the sharing of our life in this fuzzy, unconsciousness that is going on in the video. There's not a particular emphasis. It's just that sharing experience that you don't get if you're single.

## Artists Upstairs

**Where:** 911 Penn Ave., Downtown  
**Hours:** 3 to 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays  
**With:** Music by Push Play tonight

**p.m.: The name of the piece is Membrana. What does that mean?**

**Loyola-Garcia:** Membrana is Spanish for membrane. ... The name comes because there's a part of the video that includes bodily fluids and when you become a parent, bodily fluids just become a part of life. It's not disgusting anymore.

**Tapia-Urzu:** We kept it in Spanish because we're both originally from Chile.

## 'MOBILE SCULPTURE VEHICLE LABORATORIES'



PHIL PAVELY/TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Bryan Lauch's 'Naturalization Vehicle.'

The Future Tenant gallery has bare rough walls and an old tile floor.

That's a good kind of space for his art, Bryan Lauch, 28, said.

An artist trained in ceramics, who's now doing performance art, Lauch said his main interest is in "engaging a society that is not that interested in art spaces."

His pieces, "vehicles" put together from garden-variety objects, are meant to question traditional senses of time and permanence, he said. During his show, visitors will see one moving vehicle drip ink

## Future Tenant

**Where:** 801 Liberty Ave., Downtown  
**Hours:** Exhibit runs through Feb. 10.  
Noon to 8 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays  
(subject to change)  
**Info:** 412-325-7037

onto the floor, making a physical impression or "map" of the night.

One dramatic piece is called "Meta War," which is a large homemade all-black catapult that stands ready to hurl hand-made globes, symbolizing the

world's continents.

"Marriage Carriage" uses large cable spools for wheels and antique table handles in front, making it look like an Asian rickshaw.

Much of Lauch's work in "Mobile Sculpture Vehicle Laboratories" exhibit is autobiographical.

His wife, Petra Pokos, is Slovenian. "Naturalization Vehicle" is named in her honor.

Lauch is a University of Pittsburgh adjunct professor in sculpture. This is his first Pittsburgh show.

## Show Here

**Where:** 945 Liberty Ave., Downtown

**Info:** To view the exhibit after the crawl, contact photographer Derek Wahila at 412-327-8627 or derek@wahila.com

## 'AFTER AND BEFORE: THE PEOPLE AND PLACES OF PRODUCTION'

Derek Wahila, 32, of Point Breeze, juxtaposes his photos of industrial workers with photos by Brian Krummel, 33, of Bethel Park, which showcase places now forgotten, including old factories and an abandoned insane asylum.

**Trib p.m.: What was the inspiration for the exhibit?**

**Wahila:** My penchant for the work, what I like to shoot and what's going to be in the exhibit, is blue collar workers. ... I'm

catching and documenting the change essentially as things are being created ... whereas Brian's catching it on the tail end before it goes away. ... It's sort of the dynamic nature of Pittsburgh that I think draws both of us. Things are changing, things are being created and things are disappearing.

**p.m.: What was the most striking place you visited?**

**Krummel:** I would say the Dixmont State Hospital (near



ANDREW RUSSELL/TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Derek Wahila and Brian Krummel.

Sewickley). ... It was just creepy. It's an insane asylum, so you've got a place where people were

basically locked up for mental health reasons. ... It had been abandoned for about 20 years, so it was in pretty bad shape. It was just spooky. Your mind starts playing tricks on you.

**p.m.: All the photos in the exhibit but one are black and white. Why have that one in color?**

**Wahila:** Because it's just a favorite of mine.

**Krummel:** He just wants to be difficult. (smiling)