



Drawing Room

Venice, June 4th and 5th
9:00 am – 11:00 am

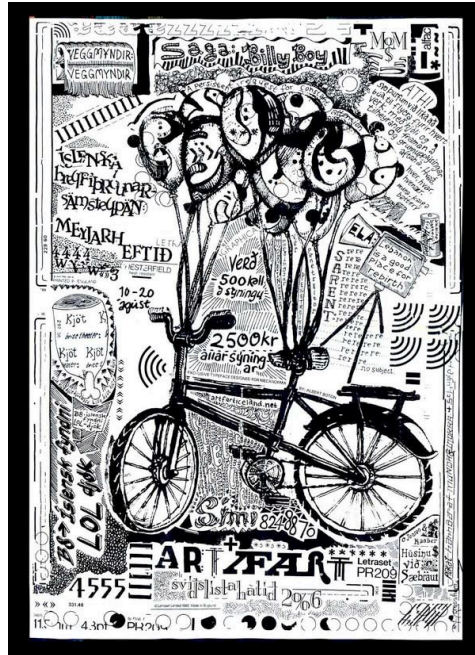
The Drawing Room is the space in the house generally used to entertain guests. From an etymological point of view, it descends from 'withdrawing room', a place in which to receive, in a semi-private manner, significant guests, but literally it also means room in which to draw. The project **Drawing Room**, initiated by the collective Art At Work, develops along the whole year 2009 throughout different cities, more specifically in private and public rooms, and is inspired by the idea of 'drawing room' in both its meanings.

Drawing, as a medium, positions itself as the most instantaneous method through which to capture the creative process in its becoming. This strength is due to the quality of its gesture, which is the most direct way through which to transfer a thought on a flat surface. The distance between the mind of the person that draws and the page on which he or she leaves a trace is minimum. The movement is spontaneous, as the automatic gesture of scribbling while listening to someone speaking. The act of drawing can thus be considered an unconditioned reflex, a silent language that emerges from our own hand without any effort. In a contemporary society in which information is exchanged at a very high speed, and art productions demand months of preparation, artists feel the need to stop and represent the world through subtle metaphors. The impact with reality, pushes artists towards the private dimension of drawing in which they find a spontaneous and free context, capable of narrating, their obsessions, their memories and their desires.

The project **Drawing Room**, aims to present a series of artists from different generations and cultural backgrounds, and offer the audience the occasion to relate to artistic productions that will hugely differ in technique, size, themes and representations but that in their complexity will shed light on the renewed importance of this medium in the contemporary artistic discourse. Drawing is, nowadays, linked to a plurality of techniques: charcoal, markers, pencils, watercolours, multiple hands, projection of images, the use of typewriters, printing or sowing. Drawing leaves the freedom of making use of all possible materials, as long as through it artists have the possibility of leaving a trace.

The first **Drawing Room** was held in March in Turin and hosted Davide Savorani's (Faenza 1977) drawing based performance entitled *Oh, Valley!*

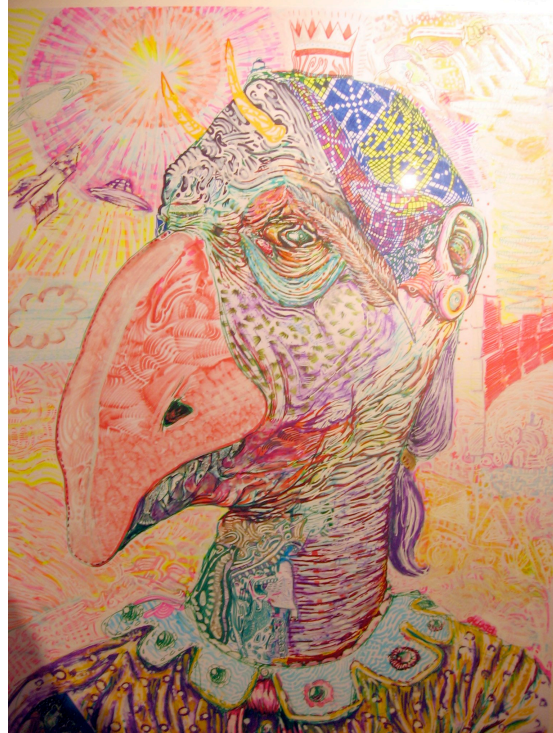
Drawing Room's second appointment will be held in Venice, during the opening days of the Venice Biennale. On June 4 and 5, days of the preview, Icelandic collective **MOM-S** is invited to participate with a new commission, between performance and drawing.



MOM-S Artfart Bike Poster



MOM-S Artfart Bike



MOM-S, Birdman

On the occasion of Drawing Room in Venice, the collective MOM-S will be drawing on a table specifically designed by the Italian artist Walter Visentin (Turin, 1969). The table will "travel" together with the forthcoming Drawing Rooms.

Drawing Room will be hosted in the space right in front of the Venice Biennale's main entrance of the Giardini.

Art At Work is a collective, which develops contemporary art projects, installations and shows.

AAW provides artists an opportunity of getting the highest potential out of their ideas within the best possible contexts.

AAW has no specific exhibition venue, and each project will be conceived, produced and realized in a different place, both in Italy and abroad. Through constant dialogue with the artists, AAW aims at creating an innovative working platform to allow the development of extraordinary works in different media.

AAW, on account of its structure's flexibility and of the group's manifold competences, will cooperate both with collectors and public or private institutions, so as to take advantage of the most diverse and efficient promotional mechanisms to diffuse its projects within the contemporary art system.

AAW will cooperate with public or private companies to facilitate any kind of creativity-related project or event.

AAW is a project by Ilaria Bonacossa, Paola Clerico, Luca Conzato, Ilaria Gianni, Riccardo Ronchi and Francesco Stocchi.

Drawing Room

Bar Paradiso
Giardini della Biennale
Castello 1260
30122 Venezia

Special thanks to:

Concilio Europeo dell'Arte



Concilio Europeo dell'Arte

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MOM-S

MOM-S is a group composed of three artists, two Icelanders named Mundi and Morri and an American named Schuyler Jack Maehl. Mundi and Morri enrolled in the Icelandic Academy of Arts in August 2005. In October they met Schuyler through a fellow student. Soon after Schuyler arrived in Iceland he became an apprentice of the Norwegian painter Odd Nerdrum, who lived and worked in Reykjavík at the time. Mundi, Morri and Schuyler worked together on various projects after the New Year including a recording session in an abandoned US army location in Iceland.

They were also a part of the winning team in Iceland's preliminary Eurovision song contest with the Euro-Trash star Silvia Night. They designed part of the interior of a night club in down town Reykjavík. The biggest project during this time was the graphic design and PR for a stage art festival in Reykjavík called Artfart. For example, as a part of this project they hung a bicycle over the main shopping street in Reykjavík with helium balloons attached to it. The piece attracted a lot of attention and is still up there. The balloons were later replaced by new ones with help from the Reykjavík Fire Department.

The MOM-S name was, in fact, first initiated by the threesome in relations with the Arfart festival. It is simply their initials arranged in a certain way.

In June 2006, MOM-S was invited to participate in an exhibition and performance by the Austrian artist group Gelitin in Gallery Kling&Bang. The performance was a success. Afterwards Gelitin and MOM-S decided to collaborate on a book about the performance.

In the beginning of the year 2007 MOM-S traveled with Gelitin to New York to have a "Bunter Abend" at Deitch Projects following the Jason Schmidt book premier, "Artists".

In June 2007 MOM-S travelled with Gelitin and friends to Venice, Italy to participate in the "Hamsterwheel" group show at the Arsenale, conceived by Franz West. MOM-S tried to help Gelitin build a gigantic tree sculpture. However, they soon started to think only of themselves and built a MOM-S boat. This is how the performance "Hvar er "skipperinn" came to be.

In the Summer of 2007 Schuyler returned to America but Mundi and Morri continued to do some artsy stuff in Iceland.

Mundi and Morri took part in the preparation and organization of an art event called DÍÓN_SÍA in winter 2006-2007 with only a few other artists. The plan was to send young Reykjavík based artist to the countryside, for ten days in July, to work with inhabitants of Iceland's least populated towns. As participants Mundi and Morri traveled to Grundarfjörður with three others to build a Pizza Place.

Vina-Pizza opened two days later and curious pizza hungry locals came out to visit. Mundi and Morri were also responsible for most of the graphic design of DÍÓNÍSÍA.

Mundi and Morri organized the "Brakarí" exhibition with four other artists during the L.U.N.G.A young arts festival at art town, Sey_isfjör_ur. There Mundi and Morri exhibited MOMS – Overkill drawings.

MOM-S did three different art projects during Sequences art festival. Exhibited drawings at Lost Horse Gallery, had an exhibition in every living room in Iceland by broadcasting an exhibition on RÚV (Iceland National Television) teletext page, "page 444". In Tjarnarbíó MOM-S performed a live sculpture "Single MOM-S Night Out, an experiment with cardboard boxes growing from the inside out.

In October MOM-S traveled to Galway, Ireland and invited Gelitin with friends to join in. Together they built a humongous buerocratic sculpture wich included a shakespeareian theater were MOM-S, Gelitin and a few others did the performance Piss@Us.

In January and February 2008 MOM-S were living and working in Paris. MOM-S were invited by Gelitin to contribute to Gelitin's largest exhibition so far, "La Louvre Paris" at Musée d'art Moderne de la Ville de Paris (The Modern Art Museum of the City of Paris.) "La Louvre Paris" opened the 29th of February and was a great success.

Schuyler returned to his family in the United States soon after MOM-S returned to Iceland. Schuyler moved to Vienna in the spring 2008 to live and work with Gelitin for the rest of the year.

Mundi and Morri returned to Sey_isfjör_ur in summer 2008 along with a group of friends to participate in L.U.N.G.A young arts festival. Together the group of friends tidied up one part of a huge dirty old Herring factory and there MOM-S and friends made a live party exhibition called "Allt í drasli".

At one L.U.N.G.A concerts Mundi got beaten up badly by a local kid which left Mundi with a seriously swollen jaw. Understandably Mundi got very upset as he had never had such experience before and as some kind of an outlet for his feelings, Mundi decided the following day, to challenge everyone to fight him in a small chamber he'd just prepared. This performance "The Fight Chamber" became one of the highlights of "Allt í drasli" but another piece of MOM-S and friends that got peoples attention was the "MOM-S Orange Tree" in front of the local bar "Láran". (The week after a doctor told Mundi his jaw was broken)

The bike hung up in the air by MOM-S in summer 2006 became, like many other street art pieces, victim to a policy composed by current city mayor Ólafur F. and fulfilled by mogul Jakob Frímann Magnússon as they attempted to clear Reykjavik of street art. Sadly to witness, they had a lot of success with they're policy, wiping out graffiti and other unofficial art from the streets of Reykjavik.

In October 2008, Kling&Bang gallery invited MOM-S to travel with them London, England, to attend the very so fancy and conservative art fair Frieze. At Frieze the aim was to reconstruct and open for the very last few days the legendary Reykjavik bar,

Sirkus. Sirkus had been shut down earlier the same year due to the proprietors' plans to build a shopping mall where Sirkus was standing. MOM-S where unsuccessful in getting grants for the project but still decided to go, but without Schuyler. The Sirkus project was one of the most successful happenings at the Frieze Art Fair 2008. MOM-S premiered their video "The Fight Chamber" at Sirkus, then had a huge fight and finally got thrown out of Sirkus. As MOM-S Icelandic artists where having this success with their art at the Frieze, they where not as successful with their money and credit cards as the Icelandic financial system was collapsing at the same time in Iceland. The Shopping Mall that was supposed to replace Sirkus will probably never rise, leaving the house that once was Sirkus, worn down and empty like a haunted house.

In London MOM-S stayed with a common friend of theirs and Gelitin, curator Michael Smythe who a few months later had some of MOM-S videos shown at an on-line exhibition project of his called Nomad.

In early march 2009, Mundi and Morri repainted the walls of a popular Reykjavík fashion store, Naked Ape along with Ragnar Fjalar and Arnliótur Sigursson.

Mundi had a lot of success with his fashion in recent months as he returned from Turkey with his latest collection of fashion, exhibiting both in Paris and London and finally Mundi had a great success with his latest fashion show at "Hafnarhúsi", Reykjavik Art Museum, in courtesy of "Hönnunardagar". Mundi's design was well taken by the crowd but what pleased the crowd even more was the fact, that instead relying on standard good-looking-models to show his fashion, Mundi got several people with "Downs" syndrome instead to wear his fashion which they did excellently without much effort but with a lot of joy.

In recent march 2009, Schuyler helped Gelitin once more as Gelitin had an opening at a Vienna based gallery. The poster made by Gelitin explained that the performance would be performed by themselves and artist John Boch. This later turned out to be a huge lie as John Boch probably never heard of the event, instead Schuyler performed with Gelitin not as himself but as John Boch.



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