

# The New England Journal of Aesthetic Research

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THE NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL  
OF AESTHETIC RESEARCH

We proudly offer more New England art news and reviews than anyone else. [Contact](#) our researchers. Disconcerting [evidence](#) concerning the nature of our existence. Learn more about [our founder and his Invisible Museum](#). [Search](#) our extensive research archive.

NEW ENGLAND ART AWARDS



The winners of the 2009 New England Art Awards will be announced at the New England Art Awards Ball at 7 p.m. Feb. 8 at the Burren in Somerville, Massachusetts. And you are invited. Details [here](#).

PHOTOS



[Order photos by The New England Journal of Aesthetic Research](#) of the Honk Parade, Boston Caribbean Carnival (above), Salem's Haunted

« [Bennett Simpson leaving ICA](#)  
The new ICA »

## 'PRC P.O.V.' at BU's Photographic Resource Center

Where is photography now and where is it headed? Those are the mammoth questions that the Photographic Resource Center at Boston University takes on in "[PRC P.O.V.: Photography Now and the Next 30 Years](#)." To mark the center's 30th anniversary, the institution invited current and former staff, board members and other "luminaries" to pick 31 artists and art entities "that are just getting attention (or deserve more) as well as those that will make a significant contribution over the next 30 years."



The most intriguing selection is [Turbulence](#), an outfit based in Roslindale and Staten Island, N.Y., that commissions original Web art. Actually, it's a work [Turbulence](#)

commissioned that was chosen to represent [Turbulence](#) that's most intriguing. In "[Self-Portrait](#)" (excerpt above), New York artist [Ethan Ham](#) deploys facial-recognition software to search for his likeness among the millions of photos posted to Flickr.com. There's a whole – and growing – genre of art that could be called Searching for Signs of Human Life on the Internet. Often this involves artists trawling the net like cockeyed librarians, collecting raw material that they then gussy up for presentation to the non-virtual world. But Ham turns Flickr into his medium. His search program finds resemblances to him in men, women, people of different ages and races. There's something wonderful and funny, and then forlorn and maybe desperate in this Internet quest for kinship. Often art about the Internet ends up being about the Web as a lonely, alien place. And Ham's piece has some of that, but it also speaks to how the Web – where we come together in all our random unedited democracy – creates community.

This art points to a new branch of work where artists begin to make sense of the delirious chaos of Flickr, eBay and Adobe Photoshop (three other P.O.V. picks) – that artists will help us find meaning there, not just reflect the bewilderment many feel in our interconnected-disaffected world. The rest of "PRC P.O.V." suggests that the future of photography will mostly be polished art photos and airy conceptual work, and very little photojournalism. On the whole, this future looks pretty

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TALKS FROM OUR ARCHIVES



[Lynda Barry](#), Oct. 2, 2008.  
[Eleanor Callahan](#) and [Barbara](#), Nov. 11, 2008.  
[Nick Cave](#), Oct. 8, 2007.  
[Brian Chippendale](#), May 16, 2008, [part one](#) and [two](#).  
[Christo and Jeanne-Claude](#), Sept. 23, 2008.  
[Chuck Close](#), Nov. 1, 2007.  
[Gregory Crewdson](#), Oct. 29, 2008.  
[Lynda Hartigan](#) of the Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, July 16, 2008.  
[Anish Kapoor](#), May 27, 2008.  
[Dennis Kois](#), director of DeCordova Museum, June 9, 2008.  
[Ernest Morin](#), July 21, 2008.  
[Dan Moynihan](#), Brookline cartoonist and illustrator Oct. 8, 2009.  
[Damian Ortega](#), Sept. 15, 2009.  
[Gary Panter](#), [April 11, 2008](#), and [Sept. 20, 2006](#).  
[Martha Rosler](#), Nov. 21, 2008.  
[Stefan Sagmeister](#), April 25, 2008.  
[Neil Salley](#) of the Musée Patamécannique in Bristol, Rhode Island, Aug. 16, 2007.  
[Jon Sarkin](#), July 31, 2008.  
[Peter Schumann](#) of Bread and Puppet Theater (pictured above), Aug. 12, 2008, [part one](#), [two](#) and [three](#); Jan 23, 2008, [part one](#) and [two](#).  
[Richard Serra](#), June 1, 2008.  
[Rachel Whiteread](#), Oct. 14,

Happenings Grand Parade, Bread and Puppet Theater, St. Peter's Fiesta in Gloucester, and more.

YOKELISM



Yokelist Manifesto Number 1: [Boston lacks alternative spaces?](#)  
Yokelism at the [2008 Boston Art Awards](#).  
Yokelist Manifesto Number 2: [Montreal case study](#).  
Yokelist Manifesto Number 3: [Hire locally](#).  
Yokelist Manifesto Number 4: [We need coverage of our living artists](#).

Yokelist Manifesto Number 5: [We need local retrospectives](#).  
Yokelism update: Coverage of our living artists: [Sebastian Smees responds](#).

Yokelism update: [Dangers of Provincialism](#).  
Yokelism update: [Re: Dangers of Provincialism](#).  
Yokelist Manifesto Number 6: [Could the CIA help?](#)

Yokelism at the [2009 New England Art Awards](#).

NEW ENGLAND TREASURES

[Fawcett's Antique Toy & Art Museum](#), Waldoboro, Maine.  
[Gropius House](#) in Lincoln, Massachusetts.  
[Frank Lloyd Wright's Zimmerman House](#) in Manchester, New Hampshire.

SEEING ART FOR FREE

Always free:  
[Addison Gallery](#), Phillips Academy, Andover, Massachusetts.  
[AS220](#), Providence, Rhode Island.  
[Boston Athenaeum](#).

familiar.



Finnish photographer [Miklos Gaál's](#) "Sunday Afternoon" (2003) is a large unframed color print (left) of tiny beachgoers under teensy blankets and umbrellas on a vast, sunny curve of shore. The scene is shot from high above (echoes of [Andreas Gursky](#)) and only a vertical strip to the right of center is in focus, making the place seem magical, and cute, like a dollhouse or model

railroad layout. His soft-focus beautiful world photos are terribly charming (in the way that soft photo food photos in a Martha Stewart magazine are terribly charming) – though I'm not sure if they're much more than that. Perhaps there's something worthwhile in making the world seem so lovey, small, distant, toylife, because maybe it makes this crazy mixed-up world seem manageable, fixable, improvable – and worth fixing.



Providence native [Karina Aguilera Skvirsky](#), who's now based in New York, makes photos by restaging newspaper shots of the Iraq war in her 2006 series "Backyards." In "Lord & Taylor Parking Lot, NJ" (left) she has a woman in a suburban mall parking lot assume a costume and pose from a New

York Times shot of a woman apparently distraught over an Iraq bombing. Skvirsky's method could help us feel the original images more deeply, or question why many news photos of people facing horrors feel so distant and unmoving – but this image doesn't resonate.

Toronto artist [Susana Reisman's](#) "Photo-sculpture, Rust" (2004-05), winds long strip photographs of some rusty brown thing into an

2008.

NEWS TO US

Boston Globe: The New England Journal of Aesthetic Research is one of ["The best of the \(local\) web."](#)  
Edgar Allen Beem of Yankee Magazine: ["Indispensable ... Probably the best regional art site in the country."](#)  
Art Connect: "Cook covers so much ground that you get the feeling that [he must be aware of everything](#) that goes on in the New England art scene."  
Wikipedia: One of the ["Notable art blogs."](#)  
Drawn & Quarterly blog: The New England Journal of Aesthetic Research is "the [best coverage of the New England area art scene](#) out there."  
Modern Kicks: "When it comes to art in New England, [the man sees everything](#). I don't even want to know what the mileage on his car is."  
Joel Brown of HubArts: "Cook has been a veritable [Woodward and Bernstein](#) on the Rose."  
Art Fag City: ["The most detailed report \[on the Rose Art Museum that\] I've read thus far."](#)  
Online University Reviews: One of the ["100 Best Scholarly Art Blogs."](#)  
Sara Agniel: "The Journal is [worth adding](#) to your regular reading list."  
Caleb Neelon: ["The best regional arts news source out there."](#)  
Yankee Magazine blog: The New England Journal of Aesthetic Research is one of the ["Best Art Blogs in New England."](#)  
Ethan Ham: ["Excellent."](#)  
Thomas Garvey of The Hub Review: ["Thoughtful."](#)  
Geoff Edgers of the Exhibitionist: ["Always compelling."](#)  
Boston Photography Focus: ["Excellent overview and coverage](#) of the breaking gallery news since the spring as it happened."  
ArtSake: ["Incisive analysis](#) of



Boston Center for the Arts.  
Boston College's McMullen Museum.  
Brown University's Bell Gallery, Providence, Rhode Island.  
Davis Museum, Wellesley College, Wellesley, Massachusetts.  
Harvard's Carpenter Center, Cambridge, Massachusetts.  
Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire.  
MassArt Galleries, Boston, Massachusetts.  
MIT's List Visual Arts Center, Cambridge, Massachusetts.  
Montserrat College of Art, Beverly, Massachusetts.  
Musee Patamecanique, Bristol, Rhode Island.  
National Heritage Museum, Lexington, Massachusetts.  
Rhode Island College's Bannister Gallery, Providence, Rhode Island.  
Simmons College's Trustman Art Gallery, Boston, Massachusetts.  
Tufts University Art Gallery, Medford, Massachusetts.  
Williams College Museum of Art, Williamstown, Massachusetts.  
Most commercial galleries are also always free.

Sometimes free:  
Clark Art Institute, Williamstown, Massachusetts, daily from Nov. 1 to May 31.  
Harvard Art Museum, Cambridge, 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, after 4:30



intriguingly weird stone- or breast-shaped sculpture

(above). Methuen artist Claudia Saimbert's 2005 series "Daughters of Eve," portraits of young African-American women like "Jenny" (below), is familiar way-up-close portrait photography. But it's accomplished work for a college senior (she's still studying at Montserrat in Beverly). Her subject seems to be how black women's skin tone affects how they see themselves and how others treat them – an idea with potential, but with only one image here it's hard to know for sure.



Other New Englanders here include Martha Buskirk of Cambridge; John Chervinsky of Somerville; Chehalis Hegner of Campton, N.H.; the In-Sight Photography Project of Brattleboro, Vt.; Jaclyn Kain of Jamaica Plain; and Scott Peterman of Hollis, Maine. Boston-based journals Aspect; Big Red & Shiny; and Publio Magazine also make the cut.

*"PRC P.O.V.: Photography Now and the Next 30 Years," Photographic*

*Resource Center at Boston University, 832 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, Nov. 3, 2006, to Jan. 28, 2007.*

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Website

the New England art scene." Modern Kicks: "Greg Cook has continued to be [on top of the story](#)."

Anne Elizabeth Moore: "Has excellent taste, and is [tracking the SHIT outta the local arts scene](#)."

Boston Lowbrow: "Who would've thought Cook's unrivalled thoroughness of local gallery coverage would translate so well to [investigative journalism](#)."

Newcritics: "Cook [gets it right](#)."

Robert Castagna: Cook and The New England Journal of Aesthetic Research are the [cause of, and solution to](#), all of Boston art criticism's problems.

Jon Petro: "Cook's review reads like [a sophomoric attempt at art criticism](#)." Also our favorite footnote (see [32](#)).

p.m. everyday (but they're only open until 5 p.m.).

[Harvard's Peabody Museum](#), Cambridge, free to Massachusetts residents from 9 a.m. to noon every Sunday, and from 3 to 5 p.m. Wednesdays from September to May.

[Institute of Contemporary Art](#), Boston, 5 to 8 p.m. every Thursday; free to families (meaning children accompanied by as many as two adults) the last Saturday of each month.

[Museum of Fine Arts](#), Boston, 4 to 9:45 p.m. Wednesdays (but charge for special exhibitions).

[New Bedford Art Museum](#), 5 to 9 p.m. second Thursday of each month. Also 5 to 7 p.m.

Thursdays "donate what you can."

[Photographic Resource Center](#), Boston University, Thursdays and the last weekend of each month.

[Portland Museum of Art](#), Maine, 5 to 9 p.m.

Fridays.

[RISD Museum](#), Providence, 12 to 1:30 p.m. Fridays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sundays, 5 to 9 p.m. third Thursday of each month, all day of the last Saturday of each month.

[Worcester Art Museum](#), 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays.

Note: Public libraries often have [free passes](#) to museums.

ADDITIONAL SITES OF NEW ENGLAND INQUIRY

[Zoom](#), Cambridge.

[Vermont Art Zine](#), Vermont.

[Truth and Beauty](#), Beverly, Mass.

[Tiny Showcase](#),

[Site Meter](#)

Providence.

[The Steel Yard Blog](#),

Providence.

[Speak Clearly](#), Brandeis University, Waltham, Mass.

[School of the Museum of Fine Arts Animation crew blog](#), Boston.

[Rhode Island State Council on the Arts](#),

Rhode Island.

[Portland Museum of Art blog](#), Maine.

[Our RISD](#), Providence.

[North Shore Art Throb](#), greater Boston.

[New Urban Arts](#),

Providence.

[New Bodgea](#), Boston, etc.

[My Love for You Is a Stampede of Horses](#),

Boston and national.

[Modern Kicks](#),

undisclosed location in southern New England.

[Mass MoCA Blog](#), western Massachusetts.

[Making the Art Seen](#), Malden, Mass.

[Maine College of Art](#),

Maine.

[Maine Arts Commission](#),

Maine.

[Maine Art Scene](#), Maine.

[Keepers of Tradition](#),

Massachusetts.

[Just Looking](#), Maine.

[The Hub Review](#), Boston.

[HubArts](#), Boston.

[The Girl in the Green](#)

[Dress](#), Boston.

[A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the](#)

[Internet](#), New Hampshire.

[Exhibitionist](#), Boston.

[Cultural Productions](#),

greater Boston.

[Connecticut Art Scene](#),

Connecticut.

[Leslie K. Brown](#), Boston.

[Boston Photography](#)

[Focus](#), Boston.

[Blog Addison](#), greater Boston.

[Big Red & Shiny](#), Boston.

[The Big Picture](#), Boston.

[The Biggest Little](#),

Providence.

[The Berkshire Review](#),

western Massachusetts.

[Berkshire Fine Arts](#),

western Massachusetts.

[The Arts Fuse](#),  
Massachusetts.  
[Artsake](#), Massachusetts.  
[Art in Ruins](#), Providence.  
[Art Espirit](#), New  
Hampshire.  
[Artblog.net](#), Boston.  
NEW MEDIA INVESTIGATIONS  
[Rhizome](#)  
[The Second Life Herald](#)  
[ASCI](#)  
[Eyebeam's reBlog](#)  
[E-Flux](#)

