

COLEMAN BURKE GALLERY PORTLAND

504 Congress Street, Portland, ME 04101 / www.colemanburke.com / info@colemanburke.com

For Immediate Release:

Ian Trask

From Heaps to Whole

November 5 through December
31, 2010

Opening Reception:
Friday, November 5, 5-8 pm

Gallery Hours:
Viewable at all times



From Heaps to Whole (2010), cardboard. detail

PORTLAND, ME – Coleman Burke Gallery is pleased to present the first solo gallery installation by artist **Ian Trask**. The show will take place at 504 Congress Street from November 5 through December 31, 2010.

Evolution is in part a self-transcending process – it always goes beyond what went before. And in that novelty, in that emergence, in that creativity, new entities come into being, new patterns unfold, new holons issue forth. This extraordinary process builds unions out of fragments, and wholes out of heaps.

- Ken Wilber, from *A Brief History of Everything*

From Heaps to Whole is an experiment in trash reappropriation. Sourced mostly from the sidewalks of New York City, the cardboard used for this project is a testament to our modern day's unsustainable cycle of consumption and disposal. What started as a process for minimizing waste in the studio eventually evolved into an on-going body of work concerned with themes of accumulation, randomness, and creative innovation. Like a phoenix rising from ashes, beautiful shapes, patterns, and structures are born from discordant piles of street trash. Inspired by Ken Wilber's writings on creative emergence, evolution, and transcending old conventions, *From Heaps to Whole* aims to readdress the question: "What is waste?" If we ever hope to solve the world's waste problem, the answer surely lies in reinventing the materials already in circulation before manufacturing new remedies.

As a sculptor, Ian Trask explores the inherent aesthetics of material waste. He collects discarded, manufactured goods, sparing them from disposal or recycling programs in order to invent and impose his own process of decomposition. Cardboard is a reoccurring medium in his work because of its availability and significance as the residual waste of a shipping/packing industry that flourishes in a racing global commerce and consumer culture.

At the heart of his work is the idea of accumulation. While his usage of waste materials stems from an urgent desire to minimize his own demand on an overloaded system, he constantly accumulates ever-greater volumes of materials, and space for construction and storage is an ongoing challenge. Through the processes of acquisition, manipulation, storage, and growth he hopes to gain insight into how to live and create more sustainably, insight that he tries to communicate through his work and his presence.

About the Artist

Ian Trask is a Brooklyn-based emerging artist making the transition from a career in science. He graduated from Bowdoin College in 2005 with a degree in Biology, but left the field in 2007 after deciding to pursue an art career. Since moving to New York City three years ago, he has shown his work in a variety of interesting venues, including: sidewalks, a “green” condominium, various galleries, empty shop fronts, an art walk, a renovated factory, and even on the wall of the legendary music venue Webster Hall (currently on long-term display). For the last year, he has been the artist-in-residence at the Invisible Dog, a popular factory-turned-art center in the Boerum Hill neighborhood of Brooklyn. His residency and the installation he created for the space’s permanent collection were both mentioned in a recent New York Times article about the Invisible Dog. *From Heaps to Whole* is his first solo installation in a gallery setting.

For more information, visit: www.forkartist.mosaicglobe.com

About the Gallery

Coleman Burke Gallery Portland is a storefront installation space located at Port City Music Hall in Portland, Maine. Opened as an art space in 2009, the location allows for the 24/7 viewing of site-specific art.

Coleman Burke Gallery Portland is affiliated with Coleman Burke Gallery New York, a contemporary art gallery in the Chelsea gallery district in Manhattan, and Coleman Burke Gallery Brunswick, a large-scale installation space in the Fort Andross mall in Brunswick, Maine.

For additional information, please contact the gallery at info@colemanburke.com or go to <http://www.colemanburke.com>
