

DEM PASSWORDS

February 23rd, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEM PASSWORDS

7914-B SANTA MONICA BLVD
WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90046

Hours: By appointment only

T. 772.202.2733

F. 323.965.5243



Jessica Ciocci: *Poetry In Motion 2*

Saturday, February 26th – Saturday, March 26th, 2011

Opening Reception: Saturday, February 26th, from 7 to 10pm

Dem Passwords is proud to present Jessica Ciocci's Poetry in Motion 2. In this, her first solo exhibition since 2006, Ciocci will present a performance piece that extends out of the vividly personal and disarmingly charming universe of her illustrated works into the darkness of the Internet arts age.

For over a decade as one-third of the seminal East Coast fine-arts posse Paper Rad, Ciocci has demonstrated a seemingly inexhaustible ability to manufacture utility out of the cheapest of Pop details with a signature style that is both effortlessly thoughtful and deceptively simple.

Ms. Ciocci's performance will begin promptly at 9 PM, to be preceded and followed by a DJ presentation by Juiceboxxx.

The following is an interview conducted with Ms. Ciocci by Dem Passwords gallery director Sebastian Demian on February 21st, 2011:

Sebastian: *What is Poetry in Motion 2 all about?*

Jessica: *The thing I'm most excited about doing is going out there and doing this performance. And that's really where my energy is right now.*

7914B SANTA MONICA BLVD WEST HOLLYWOOD CA 90046 T. 772.202.2733 F. 323.965.5243

INFO@DEMPASSWORDS.COM WWW.DEMPASSWORDS.COM

DEM PASSWORDS

Sebastian: *What will the performance be or what has informed or inspired it?*

Jessica: *It's inspired by... that's a tough question, but it's going to be something totally new for me and for everybody else. And it's inspired by improvisation.*

Sebastian: *When I look at your artworks whether it's the early comics stuff with Paper Rad or what you are doing now, I feel there is an unifying spirit, but it's hard to pin down. What I love though is seeing things through your lens. I feel like you can take something that is seemingly mundane and through your lens you bring utility to it for me. And I'm trying to figure out, what is it?*

Jessica: *I'm curious how you would describe that or how you see it.*

Sebastian: *I think there is a peace frequency that is always being touched on and I've described your work as disarmingly charming. I don't even know if that really captures it for me but that's what it is. It's disarming. You take the sting out of a pop-up AD in a way. I think it's rooted in do-it-yourself, and I think of you as one of the key figures from this East Coast do-it-yourself renaissance that happened in the late 90s early 2000s. At home, but so sophisticated and thoughtful. It may appear simple on the surface but there is so much more and that's what I mean by, "through your lens this stuff is given utility." There is this density to the experience. You can look at a thumbnail jpeg and all of a sudden I'm plunged into the enormity of the experience of Jessica's work. But I didn't have to see 1,000 pictures to do it, it just took a lo-res thumbnail and somehow now, I'm here in her world.*

Jessica: *I think you're on to something. There are a lot of words that could be thrown around. There is a lot of information out there. It seems like what this is all about is what I've been paying attention to and the fact that there is a lot of care and thought put into it. And it's almost like every single thing I've done, it doesn't really matter what the form is because that's always changing. It's going to reflect the importance of what I'm focusing on. This is kind of a complex idea that I've been putting a lot of thought into and writing about by myself, but I think the performance will be about this. It will be about being present. It's just life. It's a destination and a jumping off point. So it's something that I've been thinking about and moving towards over the past year very intuitively and in an improvised way and the past couple of months I've had a lot of time to stay still and sort of reflect on all of this. So in a way, this will be coming back into action.*

Sebastian: *Will you be debuting any DJ mixes? Is that a part of the show?*

Jessica: *One could say that the whole show could be considered a DJ mix. I may bring things to hand out to the audience. It might be in the form of Xerox or MP3s.*

Sebastian: *What is the connection to "Poetry in Motion 1-2" from 2001?? Was that a zine that you guys published?*

DEM PASSWORDS

Jessica: Yeah, that was one of the first zines we did. That was right when Jacob (Ciocci) had moved to Boston and we both met Ben (Jones) and started Paper Rad and it was really formed out of the spirit back then that I've been reflecting on a lot lately, which I think can be found in some of the writings in that zine which were based on Ben making these poems on his own and then me kind of spontaneously coming up with these funny poems about, not about anything, but just writing down these things flowing spontaneously when I would be at work trying to entertain myself. We both discovered that we had been making these poems and we brought them together and made this really ridiculous book out of them and we were excited about that. And the other thing that I think is in the spirit... I think the name just says it all, but the other thing in the spirit of all of this is a zine that Jacob and I made. Jacob is my brother, you know, so we share a love for goofing off and being silly and that's where, you could say, laughter comes in. We made something called "Product Brainstorming"* which was just like ad-libbing and coming up with ideas that are pretty ridiculous. It's not serious or cool, but that was really the foundation for what we were doing at the time, so I've just been reflecting on that.

Sebastian: What do you feel about the Internet and it's relation to your artwork or your daily life.

Jessica: I think about it a lot. It's just a part of life. It's a part of my life. I think it's always changing and that's the nature of it. It is, one could say, Poetry in Motion. (laughs) That's kind of what I've been doing for the past year, getting back into the Internet and trying to stay with it and intuitively figuring it out. When I started using Twitter I didn't know what the hell it was but I jumped in and believed that anything is possible. And I wanted to push that and figure out what it was and how people were using it and then I think I finally understood how most people use it, and in some ways that made it less interesting. But there are always new avenues opening up as long as you have your eyes open, and that is constantly happening for me in life and on the Internet. It's the same thing. It's important to always have your eyes open and be aware.

Sebastian: Recently you have been more out in the open. You can be contacted on Twitter and I think that's in large part how I came to be doing this show, because you were out and accessible. Is that something you've been excited about?...Immersing yourself more in the world that before you would process? Your drawings were processing a Pop world and now it's, "Hey, I'm in the world now!"

Jessica: That's exactly it. Feeling less subject to the world and becoming the subject. Allowing that. I think a lot of Paper Rad stuff had to do with...well it was about a lot of stuff, but maybe it had to do with how culture can feel overwhelming and just reflecting that feeling...the input. And in a way the "grid drawings"* that I did were kind of a transition out of that period for me and that was a way of focusing on one thing and keeping track. Kind of like a way of coming out of being overwhelmed by input by outputting something. One thing at a time. Now I feel like I'm more interested in the balance and the flow between input and output. It's about being the subject versus recording what's going on.

7914B SANTA MONICA BLVD WEST HOLLYWOOD CA 90046 T. 772.202.2733 F. 323.965.5243

INFO@DEMPASSWORDS.COM WWW.DEMPASSWORDS.COM

DEM PASSWORDS

Jessica Ciocchi has exhibited extensively in the US and abroad at galleries including The New Museum of Contemporary Art, Whitney Museum for American Art, Deitch Projects, Pace Wildenstein, Foxy Production, John Connelly Presents, Daniel Reich Gallery and Tate Britain, among others.

*<http://jacobciocchi.org/2011/02/product-brainstorming/>

**<http://rhizome.org/editorial/2009/sep/2/eleven-evocations-for-paper-rad/>

For further inquiries contact Sebastian Demian at info@dempasswords.com or at +1.772.202.2733