

# MANIFEST v48

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**HEAD FIRST**



**FIRST CONTEXTS**



# MANIFEST

CREATIVE RESEARCH GALLERY  
AND DRAWING CENTER

volume 48

**HEAD FIRST**

**FIRST CONTEXTS**

Where Art Comes From

*MANIFEST is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization*

**MANIFEST VOLUME FORTY-EIGHT**

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**Manifest Creative Research Gallery and Drawing Center**

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First Printing - September 2010

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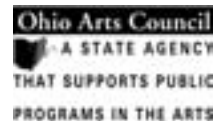
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**THANK YOU!**

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# HEAD FIRST

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September 24 - October 22, 2010

Curated by Jason Franz

Ivan Albreht

Nikki Arnell

Thomas Butler

Valerie Escobedo

Carl Gombert

Elana Hagler

Anna Kipervaser

Steven Labadessa

Paul Loehle

Douglas Malone

Gwen Manfrin

Francoise McAree

Zina Mussmann

Eric Penington

Elena Peteva

Melissa Wilkinson



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***I would wish my portraits to be of the people, not like them. Not having a look of the sitter, being them.***

– Lucian Freud

We consciously and unconsciously categorize identity based on the human head. It is, for most people, their social thumbprint, the 'I' in first person statements. Technology exacerbates people's retreat into the upper limb of their body, encouraging portraiture on a mass scale in the form of social networks such as Facebook, facial recognition tools which help sort photos of friends and family based on images of their face, and video conference calling. Some say even the soul has migrated from the central chest cavity all the way up to the head, as if altitude were an aspect of divinity. While the body is still not expendable (yet), the center of humanity has nevertheless coalesced into the mind, behind the face. When we think of each other, we usually start with the head first.

To launch Manifest's seventh season we offered this call to artists for works that address the human head in some way. While portraiture was certainly welcome, this was not intended to be a project exclusively about that genre, nor just the front of the head. All manner of interpretations, explorations, and machinations involving the human head were invited and considered, as you will see here.

For this exhibit 262 artists from 35 states and 21 countries submitted 523 works for consideration. Twenty-four works by the following 16 artists from twelve states were selected for presentation in the gallery and catalog.

***Collapsed casts in a grid formation***  
porcelain, variable dimensions, 2009





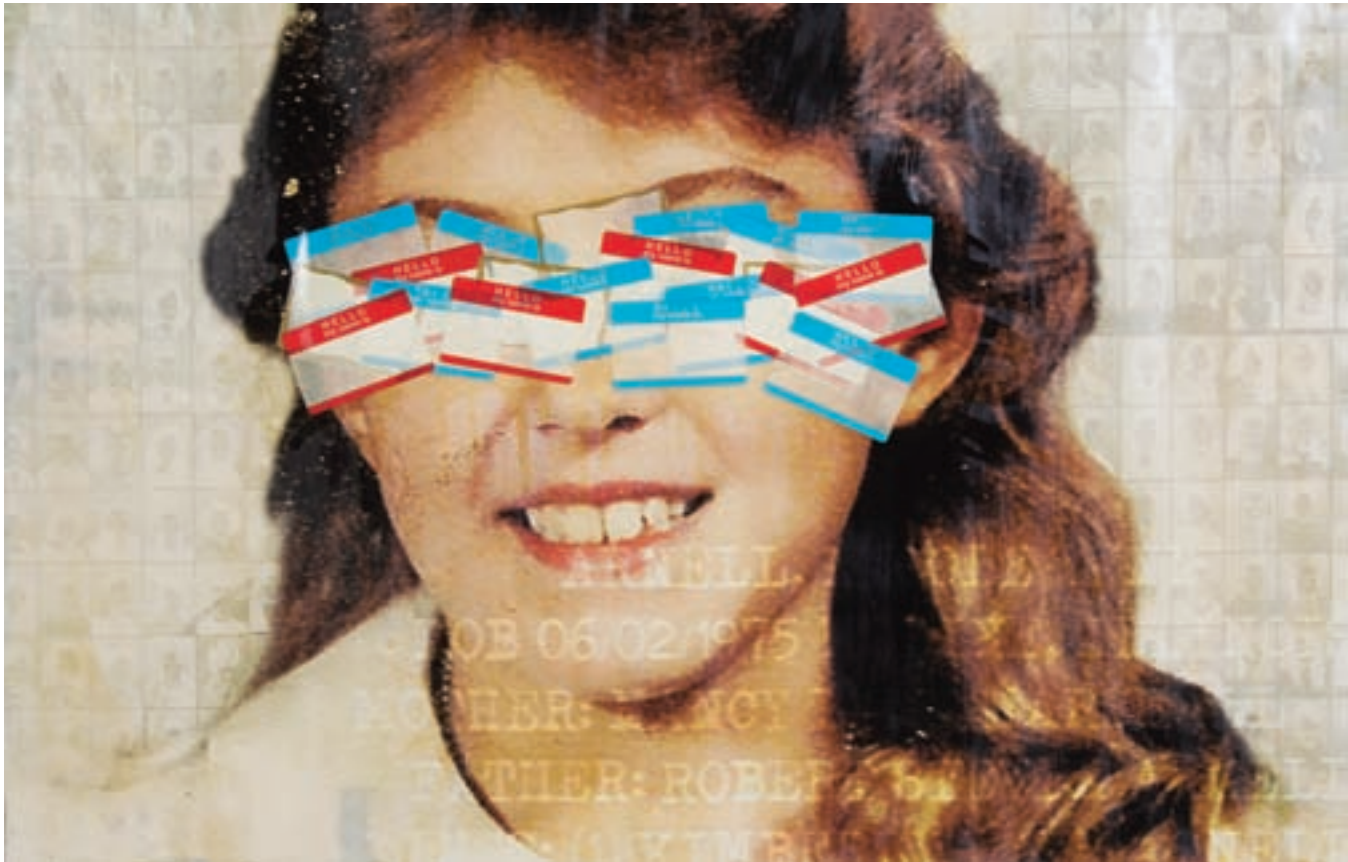
Ivan Albreht  
Palmetto Bay, Florida

*White Cube*  
porcelain, 11" x 11" x 11", 2008



**Nikki Arnell**  
Jonesboro, Arkansas

***i*IDENTITY**  
paper & wood, 22" x 34" x .75", 2006



**Thomas Butler**  
Long Beach, California

***Melissa***  
oil on panel, 12" x 9", 2009



**Valerie Escobedo**  
Findlay, Ohio

***Dave***  
oil on canvas, 28" x 23" x 2", 2009



**Carl Gombert**  
Maryville, Tennessee

***Mom During Chemotherapy***  
oil on canvas, 48" x 60", 2010





**Carl Gombert**  
Maryville, Tennessee

***The Real Me***  
pastel & acrylic, 28" x 22", 2005-2007



***Tilt***

oil on board, 15" x 14", 2006





**Elana Hagler**  
Englewood, Colorado

***Fayum Self***  
oil on linen, 12" x 9", 2006



*oscineascent (7)*

oil on shaped panel, 38" x 36", 2010



Anna Kipervaser  
Chicago, Illinois

*oscineascent (8)*  
oil on shaped panel, 45" x 33", 2010



**Steven Labadessa**  
Joplin, Missouri

***Alanna***  
oil on copper, 8.75" x 9.25", 2008



**Paul Loehle**  
Cincinnati, Ohio

***Kasy***  
pastel on paper, 34" x 26", 2010





**Paul Loehle**  
Cincinnati, Ohio

***Untitled***  
pastel on paper, 40" x 30", 2010



**Douglas Malone**  
Royal Oak, Michigan

***Reclining Skeleton***  
white pencil on black paper, 19" x 25", 2008





Gwen Manfrin  
Orinda, California

*(Not) Telling Lies*  
colored pencil on paper, 22" x 27", 2009



***Bleu***

collage, 8.5" x 11", 2010



**Francoise McAree**  
Providence, Rhode Island

***Waif***  
collage, 8.5" x 11", 2010



***Her Day Will Soon Arrive***

watercolor & gouache on paper, 4" x 3.5", 2010



**Zina Mussmann**  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

***Hidden Things***  
watercolor & gouache on paper, 4.5" x 5", 2010



**Zina Mussmann**  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

***Mr. Imagination***  
watercolor & gouache on paper, 4.5" x 5", 2010



**Eric Penington**  
West Lafayette, Indiana

***Head III***  
oil on panel, 30" x 23" x 3", 2005-2007



**Elena Peteva**  
Oak Park, Illinois

***A Man In Doubt***  
charcoal & acrylic on paper mounted on canvas, 24" x 19", 2008





Melissa Wilkinson  
Bono, Arkansas

*Self Portrait (Closed Eyes)*  
oil on panel, 9" x 12" x 2", 2009



# First Contexts



September 24 - October 22, 2010

Curated by Tim Parsley

Brett Eberhardt

Robert Groh

Rupert Hartley

Alma Leiva

Lorrie McClanahan

Daniel O'Connor

Emil Robinson

Jim Shirey

Sean Stewart

**where art comes from**

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## ***Where does a work of art begin?***

Historically, the artist's studio has served as the crucible of creation for works of art, a zone of creativity for the artist to test, fashion, produce, refine, and otherwise translate their visual ideas into concrete form. Ranging from spare rooms in the corner of a basement, to renovated barns and garages, to sun-bathed lofts with high-ceilings, the studio is the artist's escape from the demands of life, a retreat from the fray, so that new artworks have a chance to be born. Artist Daniel Buren has called the studio "the first frame of the work," and likened it to the filter artists put their work through before letting it loose into the world.

However, some artists have found the traditional studio, with its marginal position divorced from daily life, a disconnected and false context for creativity. Instead, they operate out-of-doors, literally, with their "studios" being fields upon which they plant their plein air easels, city streets where they walk and interact in dynamic give-and-take fashion, and site-specific spaces that serve as both context of origin and public display. As Robert Storr has noted, "The bottom line is that artists work where they can and how they can."

Manifest invited artists and designers of any media to submit works that explore, depict, challenge and interpret this "first frame" of creativity: the context from which art is made. Whether that originating zone is a traditional studio, an open field, a social atmosphere, or a computer screen... we invited artists to show us where it all starts.

For this deliberately selective exhibit 40 artists from 16 states and 6 countries submitted 83 works for consideration. Eleven works by the following 9 artists from across the United States, Canada, and England were selected by our two-part jury/curatorial process for presentation in the gallery and catalog.

**Brett Eberhardt**  
Macomb, Illinois

***Sofia Studio***  
graphite on paper, 10.24" x 15", 2008



Robert Groh  
Ontario, Canada

*Bluepole*  
digital print, 8" x 10", 2010



Rupert Hartley  
Surrey, England

*Rainbow Network*  
photograph, 13.5" x 17.5", 2010



Alma Leiva  
Richmond, Virginia

*Celda #5 (Prison Cell #5)*  
photography/installation, 25" x 25", 2010



***Under Construction 1***

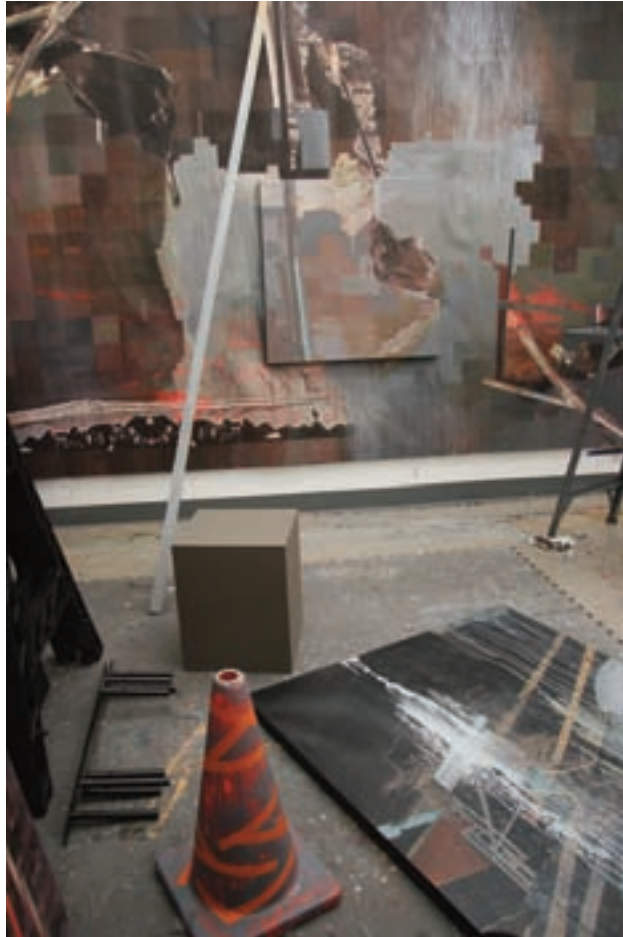
archival digital print, 16" x 11", 2010





Lorrie McClanahan  
Fort Worth, Texas

***Under Construction 3***  
archival digital print, 16" x 10.5", 2010



**Lorrie McClanahan**  
Fort Worth, Texas

***Under Construction 2***  
archival digital print, 10.5" x 16", 2010



Daniel O'Connor  
Cincinnati, Ohio

**Waste**  
oil on linen over panel, 24" x 31.75", 2008



**Emil Robinson**  
Cincinnati, Ohio

***An Open Door***  
oil on panel, 32" x 28", 2009



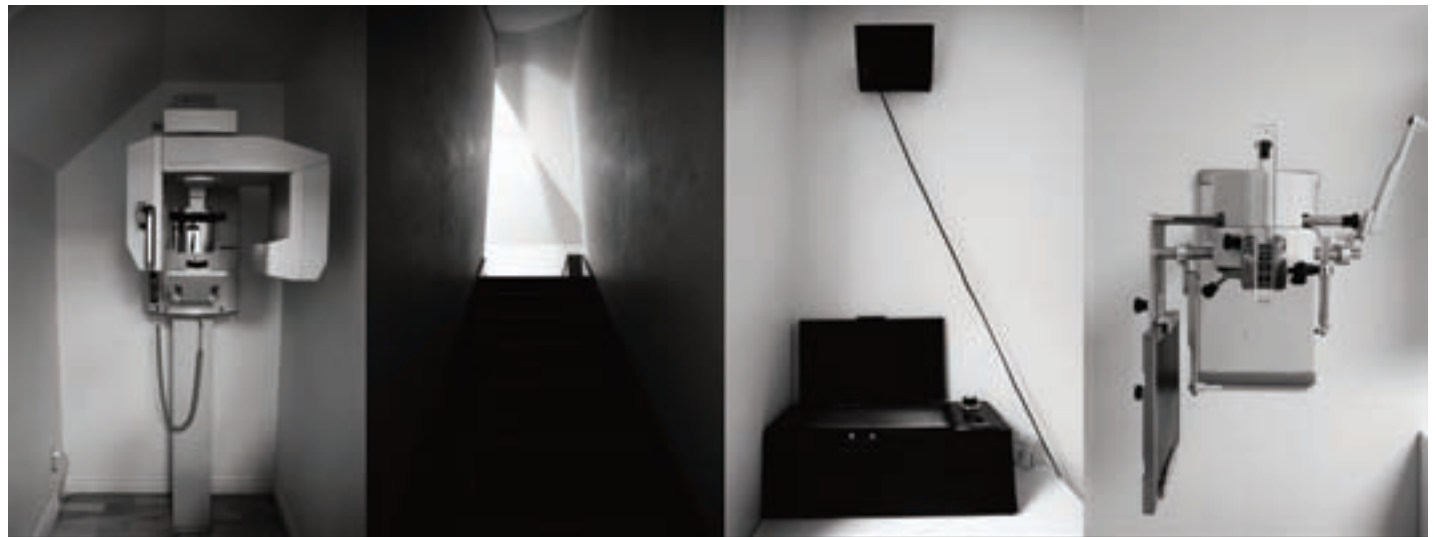
**Jim Shirey**  
Athens, Ohio

***Edge of Our Marsh***  
photograph, 20" x 30", 2009



Sean Stewart  
Ontario, Canada

*Radiographic Studio No. 1*  
digital print, 35" x 8", 2010



## ***About Manifest***

**Founded in 2004 by professors and students** from area Universities, Manifest Creative Research Gallery and Drawing Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit arts organization headquartered in the historic urban neighborhood of East Walnut Hills in Cincinnati, Ohio. The 1000 square foot museum-quality street level gallery offers three distinct exhibition spaces, and is minutes away from downtown Cincinnati, and the numerous academic institutions of higher learning in the region. Its central location in the Woodburn Avenue district and DeSales Corner places it within an energetic, creative, and revitalizing community that includes other galleries, shops, restaurants and artists' studios.

The gallery benefits from its location within easy walking distance of a historic neighborhood populated by residents from all walks of life. The galleries are free and open to the public five hours a day, five days a week, presenting works of all kinds by student and professional artists from around the world. The Manifest Drawing Center Studio is located in the nearby Walnut Hills Essex Studios Complex.

Manifest is supported by grants and public donations and has the goal to support student professionalism, integrate the arts into the urban residential community and raise the bar on artistic standards. The mission also includes the exploration of the relationship between art and design, as well as the ongoing support and display of drawing in all its various forms.

## ***Mission***

**Manifest stands for** the quality presentation, experience, and documentation of the visual arts, engaging students, professionals, and the public from around the world through accessible world-class exhibits, studio programs, and publications.

### **Manifest Gallery**

*...a neighborhood gallery for the world.*

### **Manifest Press**

*...take every exhibit home.*

### **Manifest Drawing Center Studio**

*...because learning to draw is learning to see.*



*Executive Director*

Jason Franz

*Assistant Director*

Tim Parsley

*Administrative Assistant*

Joanna Vance

*Gallery Assistant*

Laura Fisher

*Manifest Associates*

Kristin Cullen

Kevin Munte

Trevor Ponder

*Interns*

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Jase Flannery (Senior Intern)

Kathleen Harrison (Senior Intern)

Maria Lewis (Senior Intern)

Carrie Ratcliff

Bruno Zabaglio (Senior Intern)

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Christina Dakin

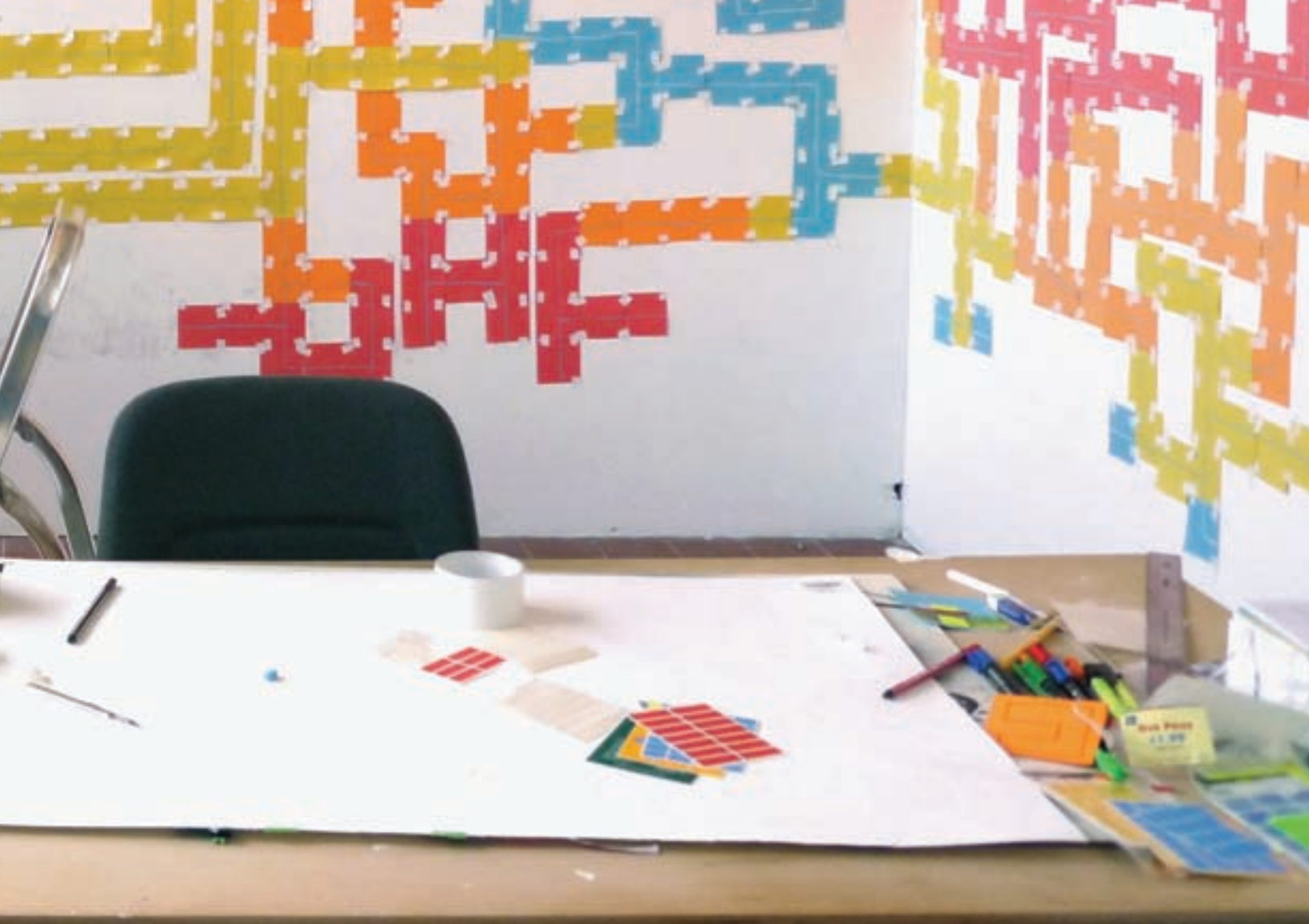
Jason Franz

Laura Fisher

Debbie Heuer

Brigid O'Kane







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[www.manifestgallery.org](http://www.manifestgallery.org)