**COUILLARD | KRUPP | MALECOT  
2010 Fall Portfolio Exhibit  
Nov 30 – Dec 5**

This exhibition represents the culmination of a semester of work by three advanced

art students. Two of these works are the result of performance art pieces created earlier

in the semester. Erin Krupp’s piece was inspired by the death of a close friend who committed

suicide after enduring months of bullying. Krupp explores the contradictions inherent

in American culture which praises the virtues of rugged individualism while simultaneously

demanding conformity if someone veers too far from the mainstream. To make

this piece she covered wood in reflective material, wrapped it in a sheet and randomly

scattered gunpowder on top. Participants were given small bits of fabric cut from the

sheet to light on fire and throw down to ignite the gunpowder. What remains is a charred

indictment of intolerance. The image burned into the materials is abstract, forcing the

viewer to become an active agent in the interpretive process while the white sheet

evokes a burial shroud and the reflective surface implicates the viewer in a culture of

violence.

Claire Malecot’s piece was created during Art Walk in downtown Ft. Myers as she

stood in a display window obsessively cutting paper in large circles while actively ignoring

those who were watching her. The sight of a young woman on display in a space that

is traditionally designed for lifeless mannequins who tempt the consumer thwarts our expectations of such a space and causes us to reflect on our own repetitive, mindless, and

obsessive actions. The fact that she is in the process of creating something—an active

agent rather than a passive object —further challenges our assumptions about consumer

culture. Although we never see the final product of her work, her action seems

more meaningful than our vapid habit of defining ourselves by the inanimate objects we

buy.

Genie Couillard offers us a series of abstracted photographs of her hair called   
*Molded Habit.* Women’s hair has long been a symbol of sexual power but these extreme close ups of hair-- snaking down walls and clinging to shower curtains that look remarkably

like flesh, cause us to reconsider the metaphor. Disembodied and contrasted against a

variety of textures, we can delight in the sheer elemental nature of hair or invent an endless

variety of narratives inspired by our own experiences to explain each image. For

Couillard, hair has always been a key element to her identity: whether a source of conflict

as it clogged drains and annoyed roommates, or a source of delight as she altered

its length and style to reflect her latest love.

The range of work in this show testifies to the development of each artist who has

moved far beyond the simplistic understanding of art as an object of beauty that is hung

on a wall or perched on a pedestal. This is not art that is validated by its price tag but art

that adds value to the human experience by pushing us to rethink our culture and

become active participants in the creative and interpretive process. The sheer range of

materials--from gunpowder to a grandmother’s bellybutton--suggests that this is art that

offers us new ways of knowing; new parameters for understanding ourselves, our relationships,

and our society.

- Dr. Wendy Chase  
November 30, 2010



**SYNC/SINK   
Student Participants (2nd Floor)  
  
DRAWING 2 INSTALLATIONS   
Student Participants (3rd Floor)**

Galen Aune  
*Mis Piece Gravity*Matt Carlson  
*Untitled*  
  
Rich Croll  
*Untitled*Genie Couillard  
*Point of Origin*Tai Goggins  
*Guardian*Mike Grodem  
*Descent*Maria E. Jijon  
*Untitled*

Erin Krupp  
*Out of Water*Megan Mosallem  
*Untitled*Andrea Mucci  
*Brothers*Alex Novicki  
*11*Kaleena Rivera  
*Luxurious*Caitlin Rosolen  
 *Sinking in Sync to the Loss of  
 Our Dreams*Melissa Smalluck  
 *Are you positive?   
 Clearly Stuck*Matthew Carlson  
  
Jessica Cusumano  
  
Cameron DeMay  
  
Matthew Dewhirst  
  
Jacqueline Donlon  
  
Marienne Figueroa

**2010 Fall Portfolio   
Advanced Students**

Genie Couillard  
*Molded Habit*

Erin Krupp  
*Portrait of My Brother*

Adriana Flores  
  
Taijhryl Goggins  
  
Minerva Gutierrez  
  
Erin Krupp  
  
Mesha Peterson  
  
Melissa Smalluck

**(1st Floor)   
\*\*details on back**

Claire Malecot  
*Paper*  
Claire Malecot *84 49 26*