



St. Louis Art Capsules

By Jessica Baran

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Jill Downen: Hard Hat Optional



A hybrid of supple and severe forms, this installation of pristine plaster shapes and construction-grade pine resembles a studio work in progress or the foundational disarray of a building site. Bright white half-figural shapes sit on freshly assembled crates; two-by-fours bolted into the gallery wall project into the space what could be the initial framework for a ceiling. Sandbags sag, fiberboard leans, molded objects pucker and dimple — dialectics, here, abound: between the body and buildings, order and disorder, the newly made and the softly aged. Standing amid the piece, the viewer is invited into a game of visual volleying of apparently — but perhaps not absolutely — widely suggestive oppositional tensions.

Also showing: Chris Rubin de la Borbolla: *there was a silent tinfoil rapping against the front door* and Brett Williams: *Things You Will See*.

Through May 9 at Bruno David Gallery, 3721 Washington Boulevard; 314-531-3030 or www.brunodavidgallery.com. Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Wed.-Sat., noon the first Sun. of every month and by appointment.

Image: Jill Downen: "Breast Blocks on Palette (detail), 2009. Mixed media. Photo: Richard Sprengeler. Courtesy of Bruno David Gallery.

ABOUT THE BRUNO DAVID GALLERY

Established in 2005, the Bruno David Gallery is a contemporary art gallery and one of the most important places to see art in Saint Louis. The Gallery represents some of the best artists that Saint Louis has to offer, along with artists of national and international reputation. The editors of the St. Louis Magazine awarded the Gallery: *Best Gallery in St. Louis* in 2008. The gallery is located in the heart of the Grand Center arts district, directly opposite the Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts and the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis.