



FOR: IMMEDIATE RELEASE / March 18, 2011
DATE: May 21 - June 25, 2011
RE: Art exhibit "Small Obsession" at Somerville Museum
CONTACT: Carolyn Wirth, curator: cww198@yahoo.com, 978-298-5210

Above: "Family Portrait" by Joan Baldwin, oil on canvas, 24x26 inches, 2009

small obsession: Artist's Dollhouses

It may not contain dolls, and it may not exactly be what everyone else thinks of as a house. It may have originated as a model for an interior at 1:12 scale. It may be a miniature set where films are made, or dramas enacted, serving to illustrate passions and experiences that have no other outlet. It may be a cabinet of exotic and costly miniatures made to satisfy an adult's craving for beauty. It may be a shrine to a personal or collective memory, a house of the spirit. Or, it may look and function like a "normal" dollhouse...having been made for the artist, instead of a child.

Small Obsession brings together 20 artists whose works runs the gamut from animation to sculpture, and from photography to oil painting. Each artist or artist collaboration brings a completely different perspective to miniature worlds--why they were created, who they are for, and whether they are lighthearted or deadly serious.

Small Obsession runs from May 21 - June 25, 2011. The opening reception is May 22, 4-6 pm. Artists talks will be given. The Somerville Museum is located at 1 Westwood Road, Somerville, MA 02143, 617-666-9810. For directions and information: www.somervillemuseum.org. Museum hours for the show are: Thursday 2-7 pm, Friday 2-5 pm and Saturday 12-5 pm. The show is free and open to the public.

Visit the show's website: <http://smallobsession.wordpress.com>

Artists: Alice Apley, Joan Baldwin, Betty Hanssen, Ilisha Helfman, Susan Huszar, Napoleon Jones-Henderson, Maria Sanchez Kouassi, Donna Rhae Marder, Karen Meninno, Sharon Pierce, Alison Power, Jeff Sais with Bryan Papciak and HandcrankedFilm, Sharon Shea, Marielle Sinclair, Lynn Thomas, Carolyn Wirth, Joyce Audy Zarins, and the Zipeto and McKendry families.



This show was sponsored in part by the Somerville Arts Council, a local agency of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and by the members of the Somerville Museum.