

GRAMÁTICA PARDA

September 25, 2010

ANDLAB Gallery

Los Angeles

gramaticaparda2010.blogspot.com

Inaugural multimedia exhibition from artist collective **Gramática parda** set to open at LA's ANDLAB Gallery September 25, 2010

Sunook Park, owner and creative director of ANDLAB*, presents the first iteration of a planned series by artist collective **Gramática parda**, September 25 - November 20, 2010. An opening reception for the exhibition is slated for Saturday, September 25 from 6 - 9PM at the ANDLAB Gallery at the Brewery complex in downtown Los Angeles. An artist talk preceding the reception is scheduled 4 - 5PM on the same day.

Gramática parda will feature original work by accomplished and emerging LA and NYC artists [Lead Artist: Joe Merrell], inspired and informed by various sources including natural history and sciences, philosophy, traditional and electronic media as well as the "wild and dusky knowledge" that is the project's namesake - transmitted in a holographic environment, spanning the real and projected. Participating artists include Merrell, Paul McLean, Stephanie Abramowicz, Shane Kennedy, and Doyle Trankina.

The **Gramática parda** blog (gramaticaparda2010.blogspot.com) exists as a record of the project in progress and a resource to participating artists. Links to additional information and press materials can be found in the blog's right margin.

Participating artists

Joe Merrell, Lead Artist: Video, CGI Video Phantograms, Digital Stills

Paul McLean: Video, Photographs, Painting

Stephanie Abramowicz: Drawing, Painting

Shane Kennedy: Sound

Doyle Trankina: Drawing, Sculpture

When

Saturday, September 25 - Saturday, November 20, 2010

Opening Reception on Saturday, September 25 / 6 - 9PM

Artist talk preceding the reception scheduled 4 - 5PM

Where

ANDLAB Gallery

600 Moulton Avenue, #303

Los Angeles, CA 90031

323.222.2225

Contact

Joe Merrell / 323.284.5029 / joe@uhhuhohyeah.com / gramaticaparda2010.blogspot.com

*For more information on ANDLAB Inc., an LA based cross-cultural branding company, visit www.andlab.com.

Project Description and History

Taken from an essay by poet Gary Snyder, **Gramática parda** is a Spanish colloquialism indicating a deep understanding of the world and how it works:

Thoreau wrote of “this vast, savage, howling mother of ours, Nature, lying all around, with such beauty, and such affection for her children, as the leopard; and yet we are so early weaned from her breast to society.” Is it possible that a society as a whole might stay on better terms with nature, and not simply by being foragers? Thoreau replies: “The Spaniards have a good term to express this wild and dusky knowledge, *Gramatica parda*, tawny grammar, a kind of mother-wit derived from that same leopard to which I have referred.” The grammar not only of language, but of culture and civilization itself, is of the same order as this mossy little forest creek, this desert cobble.

Gary Snyder, *The Practice of the Wild*, p. 76

For the **Gramática parda** collective, the natural world becomes both subject and lens.

Traditionally, language, culture and civilization are held to be categorically different from the natural world – rooted in abstractions in some sense emanating from humanity (or divinity). The notion that these things are of the same order as a “mossy little forest creek” or “desert cobble” flips this traditional perspective on its head: i.e., the language, culture and civilization that distinguish humanity actually come *from* the world itself.

In the same spirit, the work comprising the inaugural exhibition of **Gramática parda** explores and remaps traditional distinctions and confrontations between the natural and artificial. The mixture of media [traditional, electronic, visual, aural] and artist perspectives combine to create a rich array of philosophical and conceptual border states and a presentation that can best be described as “holographic.”

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Joe Merrell first approached Paul McLean in April 2010 about participating in a group show and, after an initial production meeting, the pair decided on a thematic focus and collectivist approach. Further, because ANDLAB Gallery director Sunook Park was providing an opportunity to exhibit without particular commercial pressure, the original work created for **Gramática parda** could (and would) have strong experimental elements.

Merrell chose the other artists on the basis of their affinity for the subject matter comprising the focus of the project, uniquely skilled approaches to their own mediums, and the variety and balance their work would provide within the context of the exhibition itself. In addition to Merrell’s background in video and digital media, the participants include two professional scientific artists who work with paleontologists at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (Stephanie Abramowicz, Doyle Trankina), an artist accomplished in a broad range of traditional and digital media with a strong foundation in media philosophy and dimensional aesthetics (Paul Mclean), a multidisciplinary artist and musician proficient in web-based media and film production (Shane Kennedy).

Bios

Joe Merrell, Lead Artist

Born and raised in the Pacific Northwest, Joe Merrell received an undergraduate degree with an emphasis in philosophy, western literature and history from The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington and a master's degree in film from California Institute of the Arts in Valencia. Currently based in Los Angeles, Merrell began showing his own work in 2005 and now exhibits internationally in gallery, museum and festival settings. Working primarily in video and digital media, his work combines elements of documentary with formal and technical experimentation (including stereoscopic 3D). **Gramática parda** marks his first effort as lead artist in a collective project. For more information, see the artist's website (uhhuhohyeah.com).

Paul McLean

Paul McLean is an artist accomplished in new and traditional fine art media and a pioneer in dimensional production and integrated exhibit practice. McLean presented his first installation of original artwork in 1986, and since then has worked at the forefront of emerging digital processes, while maintaining a rigorous traditional studio + presentation program, in solo and collective iterations. His bases have included Santa Fe, Scotland, Nashville, Los Angeles, Eureka, Austin and in 2011, New York City. McLean's undergraduate degree is from the University of Notre Dame, and his masters courses were completed in 2009 at Claremont Graduate University [MFA, Arts MGT/Drucker-Ito School]. He is currently a doctoral candidate at The European Graduate School. For more information, see the artist's website (artforhumans.com).

Stephanie Abramowicz

Stephanie Abramowicz is a Los Angeles based artist. She earned a BFA from the University of Southern California in 2006, and is well versed in traditional and digital media. She currently works as a scientific illustrator and photographer specializing in paleontology at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. The content of her artwork is drawn from field observations and experiences as well as from anatomy, biology and paleontology. Abramowicz has been exhibiting her work since 2003 and her illustrations have been published in numerous scientific journals including *Nature* and *The Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*, as well as in popular publications such as the award-winning book *Dinosaur Eggs Discovered!*, as well as the *Los Angeles Times* and *New York Times*. For more information, see the artist's website (naturalscienceart.com).

Shane Kennedy

Shane Kennedy is a New York based artist who originally hails from middle Tennessee. During a seven-year formal apprenticeship with Paul McLean (founder of Art for Humans), he became proficient in a wide array of binary, electronic, dimensional and analog media. Starting in 2001, Kennedy participated in the evolutionary construction of the Art for Humans website network and contributed to many innovative online and actual exhibits. Since 2007, he has served as program director of Art for Humans, specializing in AV and internet-based art production on significant multi-disciplinary, multimedia projects. In 2008, Kennedy began progress toward a BFA at The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art, where he has integrated more traditional media into his praxis. For more information, see the artist's website (superluckycats.com).

Doyle Trankina

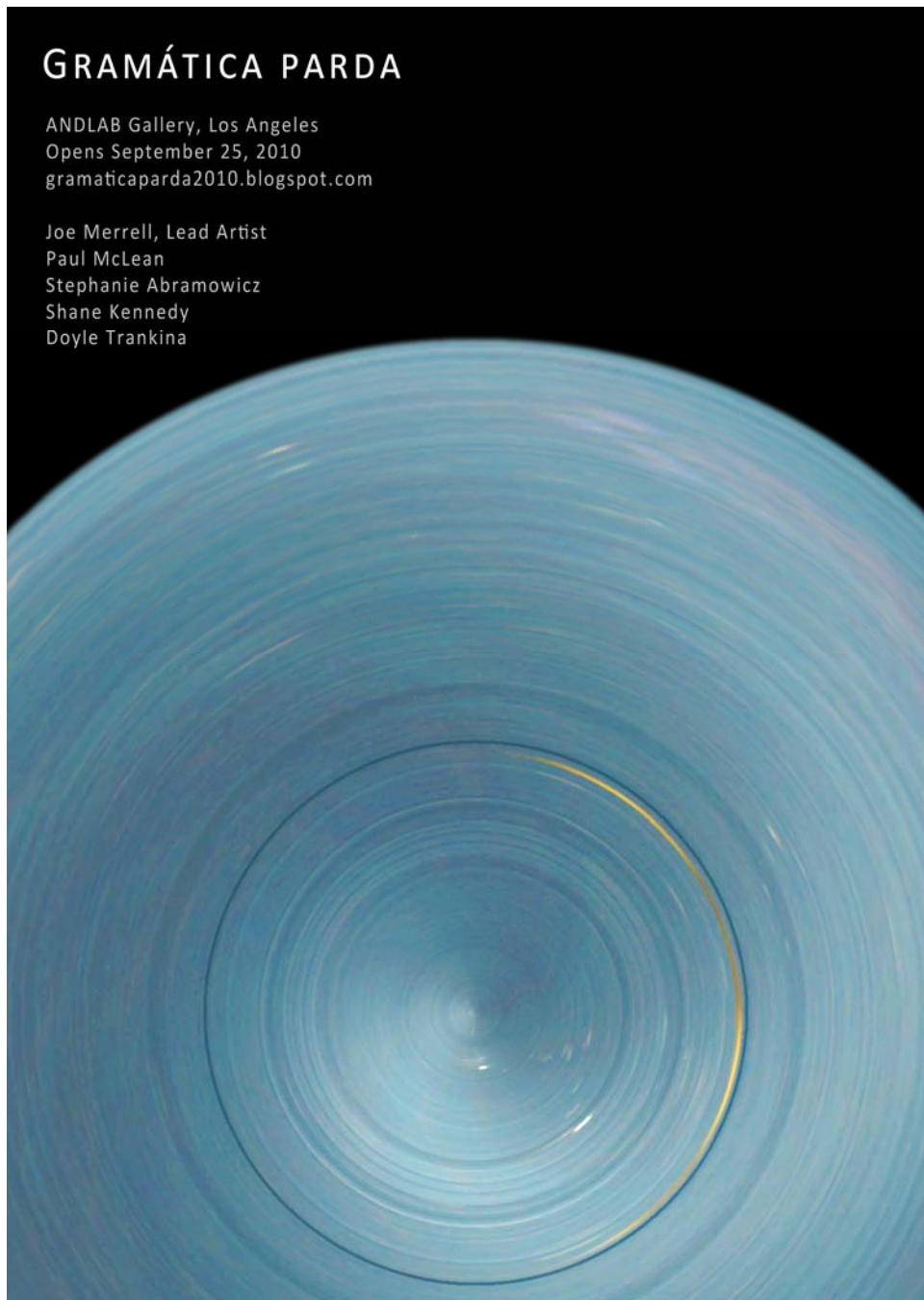
Doyle Trankina is a Los Angeles based artist with a BFA from the University of Southern California. Having spent several years producing sculpture and illustration work for the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County and other institutions, he is now emerging as a leading young Paleontological reconstruction artist. He has assisted in the collection and preparation of dinosaur specimens from Utah, Montana and Mojave, Ca. for the Natural History Museum's Dinosaur Institute, and has created work for several traveling museum exhibitions. Currently Trankina is producing sculptural and illustrated works for the Natural History Museum's Dinosaur Mysteries exhibition set to open in 2011. Furthermore, he has taught sculpture workshops at U.S.C., and developed the curriculum for sculpture course for the Natural History Museum's Adventures in Nature Program. For more information, see the artist's website (sculpturespecialeffects.com).

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Save the date e-card #1

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Save the date e-card #2

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Save the date e-card #3