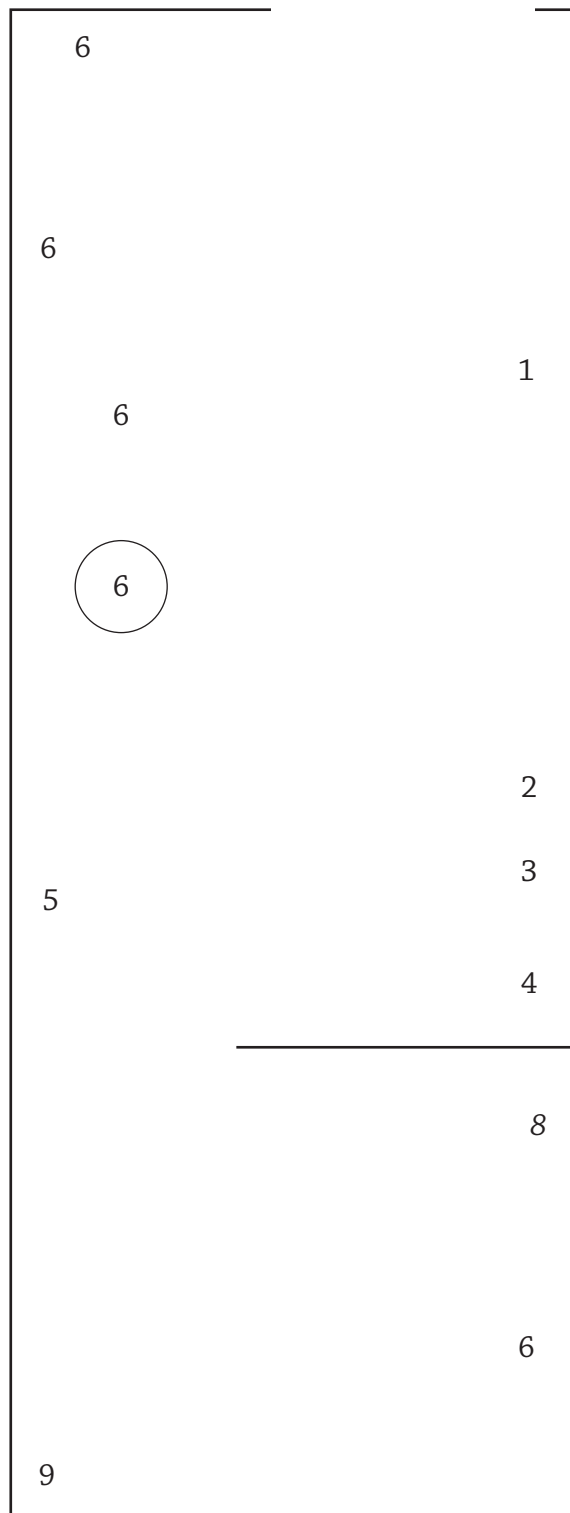


# Eel Space // *Forces of Nature* // March 7 - April 5, 2009



1. Rebecca Schoenecker *Sphinx*
2. Katy Collier *Ground Cover*
3. Katy Collier *Untitled*
4. Katy Collier *Untitled*
5. Brett Tracy *Dixie Square*
6. Val Snobeck *Jettison // Gyration*
7. Val Snobeck *Moonwalk* (podcast available for download <http://eelsspace.wordpress.com/> on Thursday, March 26th 2009)
8. Val Snobeck *Nuture*
9. Val Snobeck *Double Mirror Wave Scans 1-7*

Despite 'inventing' nature through our cultural constructs, we still deal with its forces, as investigated in critical, playful, and ironic ways by Katy Collier, Rebecca Schoenecker, Val Snobeck, and Brett Tracy, with objects, work on paper, and video.

### **Rebecca Schoenecker**

I create works through weaving, embroidery, printmaking, drawing, painting, and animation. Embroidering my drawings onto vintage found fabrics, such as table runners and doilies, I create unusual character and object driven narratives. As a printmaker painter, and animator, I produce brightly colored images and stories of personas in flux.

I am inspired by old objects and places that tell stories: Antique and thrift stores, old creepy dolls with moving eyes, fabrics with stains, bright coloring books, marionettes, old buildings, fables, fairytales, and ghosts.

I create iconic, anthropomorphized characters. They are creatures that understand the power of their beauty. They are both trapped by it and exalted because it. Intrinsically, the characters search for an identity that parallels that of their physical allure. Without clear distinction between bug and beast, myth and reality, beautiful and disgusting, the characters are torn between all-powerful and completely incapable.

The search for identity is exposed. Ideals are altered; as an embroiderer, I change the meaning of decorative objects by imposing new stories onto them. As a storyteller, I create personalities searching for beauty and balance within dangerous landscapes.

### **Katy Collier**

In this body of work my main interest is in the romanticizing of the pastoral and how I see that in conflict with the nature of physical objects. It is important to me to give precedence to small gestures that address this conflict. For me this interest spurs other conversations around marginalized identities, forgotten and misplaced identities, the structures of space and power, and how these structures are determined by language.

### **Brett Tracy**

Brett Tracy is a practicing visual artist committed to documenting and understanding the contraction of the hydrocarbon-based economy. After receiving his MFA from the University of Chicago in June of 2008, Brett and a colleague spent two months bicycling from Chicago to San Francisco via Portland, Oregon. The digital imagery produced during the tour, entitled *The Illuminated Thread*, was recently exhibited in a Chicago gallery. A year earlier, Brett's interest in outdoor advertising took him to Brazil to document the effects of Sao Paulo's 'Clean City' ordinance.

### **Val Snobeck**