

For Immediate Release  
June 28, 2011

## **CIVILIZATION and its DISCONTENTS**

July 23 - August 28, 2011  
at NARS Gallery  
Curated by Cat Weaver

**OPENING RECEPTION: Saturday, July 23rd, 4:30 – 8:00PM**  
**Curator's Talk in the NARS Parlor Room at 4:30PM**

JUL 23 'TIL AUG 28

New York Art Residency & Studios Foundation  
presents its very first  
Emerging Curator Project show,  
with 2011 selected curator Cat Weaver's

**CIVILIZATION**  
*and its*  
**DISCONTENTS**

Stephanie Homa  
Nancy Drew  
VanillaRoyal  
Kikuko Tanaka  
Olek

OPENING  
**JULY 23**  
4:30-8PM

NARS Gallery • 88 35th St, 3rd Fl  
Brooklyn, NY • For information:  
info@narsfoundation.org 718-768-2765

**New York Art Residency & Studios Foundation** is pleased to present *Civilization and its Discontents*, a group exhibition curated by the winner of the first NARS Emerging Curator Program: **Cat Weaver**. The exhibition includes work by **Nancy Drew, Stephanie Homa, Olek, Kikuko Tanaka and VanillaRoyal**.

Civilization protects us, unifies our efforts, and broadens our perspectives. It provides protection as well as the comforts afforded by a shared history and the developments of science. And yet, as Freud pointed out in his seminal work, the price we pay to be a part of civilization is often more than our spirits can bear without resistance or resentment.

With Dada, Pop art, appropriation, and Minimalism artists found ways to stand in the margins of society, and to make images that defied its restrictions while leveraging its iconography. Stepping out of the space cleared by these past genres, new artists are looking into even more extreme methods of breaking free, not only borrowing from the trappings of our civilized world, its symbols, memes

and ceremonies, and advertisements, but also treating meaning itself as material for color, texture, and mood.

These artists create a new aesthetic that works because it defies context in favor of pure form and free association.

The artists in this show will present works that are simultaneously loaded with insinuation and free of meaning. Breaking away from the constrictions that are entailed by "making sense," this new art can make bold with the aesthetic joys that came to civilization at a great price. They come off, therefore, as audacious and rude, like children taunting the librarian.

Because they harken to familiarity without the price of full understanding, and they wink at cultural constructs that "look" like those that are usually loaded with meaning, they can play with "originality" and create "inspiration" seemingly by sheer hap.

Color can be arbitrary, or evocative without ties to any coherent plot or meaning. Rhythms and symbols, borrowed at random can be collaged together to produce a mood or a feeling of meaning that is all the more ecstatic for breaking free of the rules.

If you've ever worn a T-shirt from a place you've never been, or felt elated by a song the language of which you did not understand, or dared to display a button for its color without paying mind to what it says, then you get it.

Cat Weaver

The **New York Art Residency and Studios (NARS) Foundation** is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit arts organization founded in 2006 with a mission to provide diverse platforms for cultural exchange and collaboration among artists and curators. NARS provides an array of creative support services including cross-cultural exchanges, international residency programs, and integrated exhibition programs. The Emerging Curator Program provides curators with the opportunity to present fresh curatorial ideas and encourages experimentation and active dialogue among curators, artists, and the general public. The NARS Foundation is committed to supporting the creative professional development of artists and curators from around the world as well as community building through public programs that engage the local community in Brooklyn.

#### **NARS Gallery**

88 35th Street, 3rd Floor, Brooklyn NY 11232

Gallery Hours:

Tuesday - Friday: 1:00pm - 5:00pm

Saturday - Monday: By appointment.

Please call the NARS office to set up an appointment at 718-768-2765.

**For further information please visit [www.narsfoundation.org](http://www.narsfoundation.org) or contact [info@narsfoundation.org](mailto:info@narsfoundation.org).**