

# Susan Leopold: Mixed-Up Worlds

February 13 - September 5, 2003

This brochure will help you to find out more about Susan Leopold and her artwork. **Inside, you will find:**

Four *Look at That!* activities

Two drawing challenges

Information about the exhibit

*Adults:* Please use the activities provided in this brochure to discuss the artwork with your children, and please join in the activities. They're fun for grown-ups, too!

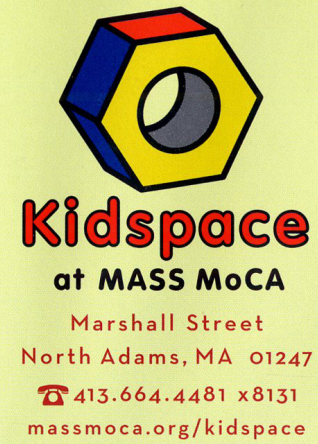
*Mixed-Up Worlds* features eleven mixed-media works that show us unusual views of familiar places. With sculptures comprised of mirrors, photographs, and angled walls, Leopold breaks apart images of bathrooms, motel units, and school hallways, and reorganizes their elements to create maze-like optical illusions. Leopold presents tiny versions of architectural spaces in peephole boxes that further alter perspective. And, in photo collages layered with semi-transparent paper and pencil drawings, Leopold changes spaces from the familiar to the unfamiliar by blurring and distorting images.

Look closely and you will find many new ways to look at the world around you.

## About Kidspace

Established in 2000, Kidspace @ MASS MoCA is a contemporary art gallery and art-making space for children, teachers, and families. Kidspace school programs and educational materials are designed for elementary schools in North Adams, Florida, Clarksburg, and Savoy, as well as Conte Middle School in North Adams. Working with Kidspace staff and artists, students and teachers learn new ways to connect contemporary art to their classroom activities and to their everyday lives.

All are welcome in Kidspace to view exhibitions and to create their own art. During the school year, public hours are Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 4pm and Thursdays from 3 to 5pm, plus holiday hours. Admission to Kidspace is free. Please call Kidspace at 413.664.4481 ext. 8131 for more details on hours, programs, and exhibitions.



*Susan Leopold: Mixed-Up Worlds* was organized by Laura Thompson, Megan Hack, and Barbara Robertson with Susan Leopold. Special thanks to Deep Singh and the MASS MoCA staff. Photos by Kevin Kennefick.

*Rooms for Doubt* (detail) ▶



Peeking into the miniature worlds in *Rooms for Doubt*

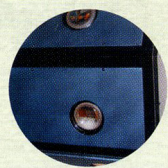
## Look At That! Activities

Search Kidspace for these sculptures. Answer the questions in the space below or discuss/fact out your answers with your family and friends.



### Up the Down Stair

Peer through the many windows of *Up the Down Stair*. How many different views of the stairwell can you find?



### Echo

Look through the peephole of *Echo*. Pretend you have walked into this space.

- Where are you standing?
- How does it feel to be in this space?
- Why do you think Leopold titled this piece *Echo*?



### Waterway

Pretend that you have stepped into this underground world.

- What sounds might you hear?
- What do you imagine it smells like?
- Which way do you think you would walk (or perhaps swim)?

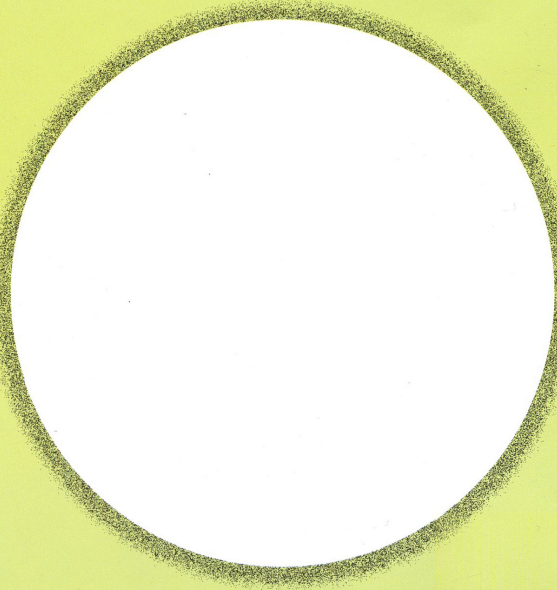


### Sink

Imagine that this bathroom comes alive when no one is in it. What kinds of things would happen? For instance, do you think the wall tile might start dancing while the sink's water tap played jazz music? Be creative!

## Drawing Activity

Take a peek at Susan Leopold's miniature worlds in *Rooms for Doubt*, and then draw a picture of what you imagine you might see through the peephole below.



## About the artist

New York-based artist Susan Leopold was born in Chicago, Illinois, in 1960. She holds a bachelor's of fine arts degree from New York's School of Visual Arts and a master's degree from the Interactive Telecommunications Program at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. She has received numerous awards and residencies from such organizations as the MacDowell Colony, YADDO, and the Djerassi Foundation. Leopold is the recipient of many prestigious awards including the New York Fellowship for the Arts and the Indo-American Fellowship, which allowed her to travel to India where for 10 months she studied traditional Indian miniature paintings. She has exhibited nationwide at galleries and museums such as the John Weber Gallery and the Whitney Museum Philip Morris Branch, both in New York. Leopold's work is in public collections including the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, The Brooklyn Museum, and the First National Bank of Chicago. She is represented by the Jean Albano Gallery in Chicago, Illinois.

◀ Peering around *Up the Down Stair*

▼ Changing the view in *Motel Scenes*

## Exhibition Checklist

### *Up The Down Stair* (2001)

Steel, cibachromes, mirror, t.v. monitor, wired glass

### *Waterway* (2000)

Wood, gatorfoam, mirror, spackle, acrylic paint, lights, plastic

Created as a Municipal Transit Authority Project and originally housed at the Franklin Street subway station in Tribeca, Manhattan

### *Motel Scenes* (2001-2003)

Wood, gatorfoam, photo sensors, electronics, lights, acrylic paint, CD player, surveillance camera, monitor

### *Motel Hallucinations* (2002)

Installation that includes:

#### *At the End of the Hall* (2002)

CD player and headphones, electronic materials, suitcase

#### *Blue Room* (2002)

CD player and headphones, electronic materials, suitcase

### *Adjacent* (2001)

Graphite, denril, color copy, Plexiglas, sintra

### *Suspended* (2001)

Color copy, denril, graphite, frosted Plexiglas

### *Collapse* (1999)

Steel, cibachromes, mirror

### *Echo* (1990)

Wood, Plexiglas, paper, fish-eye lenses, acrylic paint, lights, models

### *Rooms for Doubt* (1989)

Wood, Plexiglas, paper, fish-eye lenses, acrylic paint, lights, models

### *Sink* (1999)

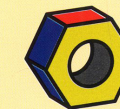
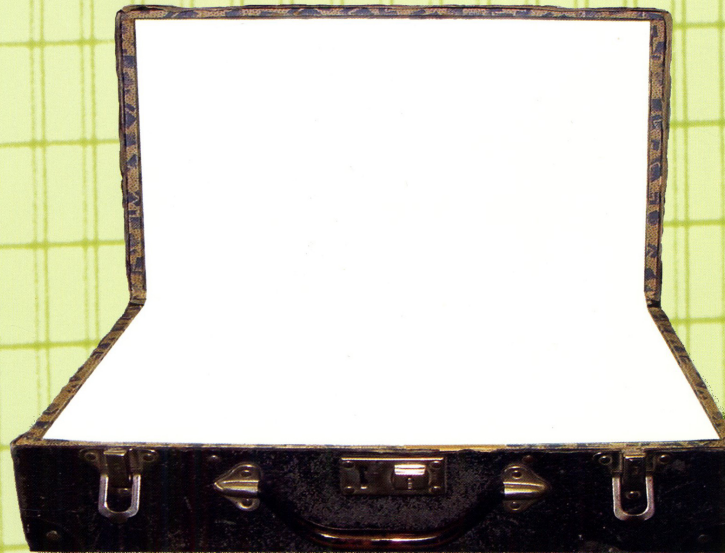
Steel, cibachromes, mirror

### *Sinks* (1996)

Foam core, color copy, acrylic paint, mirror

## Drawing Activity

Take a closer look at Susan Leopold's suitcases in the motel room, and then draw your own miniature room, city, or world in the suitcase below.



Kidspace is a collaborative project of the Sterling & Francine Clark Art Institute, the Williams College Museum of Art, & MASS MoCA. Additional funding has been provided in part by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts (a federal agency), Massachusetts Cultural Council (a state agency),

Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, Cherkis Family, and Brownrigg Charitable Trust in memory of Lynn Laitman.

