



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ANISSA MACK

THE LAST FULL WEEKEND EACH SEPTEMBER

March 8-April 26, 2008

Opening Reception March 8, 2008 6-8pm

Small A Projects is pleased to announce *The Last Full Weekend Each September*, a solo exhibition of two related works by Anissa Mack, *The Durham Fair*, and *The Durham Fair (10th Anniversary Edition)*.

The Durham Fair is the largest agricultural fair in Connecticut and has taken place on the last full weekend each September since 1916. Like many country fairs, a central focus of the fair is a series of competitions and exhibits of accomplishments in animal husbandry, cookery and food preservation, horticulture and crafts. Mack grew up in the neighboring town to Durham and attended the fair yearly, often entering competitions and exhibitions as a child and teenager.

In 1996, the artist decided to enter all 73 craft categories. The completed crafts were exhibited at Real Art Ways in Hartford, CT before the fair and then at Postmasters Gallery in 1997 with the ribbons the artist won for her efforts. In 2006, Mack decided to celebrate this work in what she considered a very American fashion, by recreating the entire project as a 10th anniversary commemorative work. In the 2006 fair there were only 69 categories, and no new categories had been created. Categories included such items as "Ceramics – decorative item", "Christmas – other article," and "Dolls, toy or game – not wood." This is the first time that *Durham Fair, (10th Anniversary Edition)* has been exhibited outside of the fair itself.

As with many of Anissa Mack's works, both sculptures interrogate Americana, traditions of craft and custom, rituals of commemoration and our relationship to place, history and family. Furthermore, the work is complicated by its existence in multiple venues where its merits as a collection of craft or art objects are judged by different communities with divergent criteria and motives. The work does not simply have an irreverent or ironic relationship to craft, nor is Mack an outsider to the community or the fair for which the work was made. However, the work elicits an interesting tension between two venues and audiences that are both ritualistic spaces for viewing, critiquing and appreciating a set of skills.

Anissa Mack has had solo exhibitions and done projects with the Atlanta Contemporary Art Center, Wave Hill, Socrates Sculpture Park, The Public Art Fund and at Postmasters Gallery. Her work has been included in group exhibitions in galleries and museums internationally. This is her first solo exhibition at Small A Projects. In conjunction with the exhibition, Anissa Mack will lecture about her work at PSU in the Monday night lecture series on March 10, 2008.

Please contact the gallery for more information or images. The gallery is open Thursday-Saturday from noon-six and by appointment.