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## **About the 2014 Efroymson Contemporary Art Fellows**

### **Christopher Baker, Chicago, IL; Installation/New Media**

At 35, Christopher Baker already has exhibited in Tokyo; London; Augsburg, Germany; Lima, Peru; Melbourne, Australia; and Toronto as well as across the United States. Christopher's body of work examines the complex relationship between society and its technologies. Trained first as a scientist, his work explores the practical implications of our increasingly networked lifestyles and reveals the link between technology and cultural evolution. Christopher will use the Efroymson Fellowship for a new exhibition entitled, "It's been a while since I last wrote... ." The show will consist of two major works that examine the state and symbolic possibility of "writing" in a digital age.

### **Paul Catanese, Chicago, IL; Hybrid Media/Installation**

As a hybrid media artist, Paul Catanese, age 39, works with traditional and emerging materials and techniques interchangeably. His most recent work, "Visible from Space," is an interdisciplinary artwork that began with a fanciful notion to create drawings on Earth so large they would be visible from the moon. With his Fellowship, Paul will expand his project, generating time-based aerial views in and around Chicago, southern Arizona, eastern Oregon, and Dubai/UAE, among others, through the use of a blimp. He will photograph and film temporary scale models of "viewed from the moon" drawings counterpoised with landscapes using reflective Mylar, marking flags, and projected light.

### **Monica Haller, Minneapolis, MN; Installation/New Media**

Monica Haller is a 34-year-old new media artist whose work involves listening as a political act within a philosophy of non-violence. She works in places that are fluid and ever-changing, such as soil, water, and memory. Her current work, "Can you listen to the same river twice?," focuses on a familiar body of water that is often taken for granted by the people whose lives it touches – the Mississippi River. Monica will use her Fellowship to gather an archive of sounds at key points of the Mississippi and bring them together in a listening station in the Twin Cities, where she will invite listeners to settle down alongside the river and hear from it at the same time.

**David R. Harper, Sheboygan, WI; Sculpture/Installation**

At 29, David Harper is the youngest 2014 Fellow. His work explores the ways in which people relate to objects with gestures that serve to amplify attachment or commemorate personal histories. With a particular interest in acts of memorializing, David explores the empathetic tendency to assign a meaning to things that may not be inherent and, through the ritual of replication, recreates the moments when objects start to defy their original intent. This Fellowship will give David time to experiment with new materials and techniques to make a new body of work. He also hopes to continue his field research in the vernacular art environments of the Midwest, and travel to two places of artistic inspiration; the Sedlec Ossuary (The Church of Bones) in the Czech Republic and Palais Ideal near Lyon, France.

**John Preus, Chicago, IL; Installation**

John Preus, age 41, is the elder statesman of the 2014 Fellows. As evidenced in his recent installation, "The Beast," John's work explores surplus and waste as a bellwether of social relationships. For John, "found" material offers a doorway into a wide-ranging set of investigations of civic life and an opportunity to reimagine the complex history of both the object and the world in which it was created, distributed, used, and finally discarded. John will use his Fellowship to develop his next body of work, and further explore new work in New York City in collaboration with philosopher Simon Critchley. He also plans to travel to Germany to further explore exhibition opportunities following up on his recent solo exhibition at the Heilbronn Kunstverein.