

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Talking to Saint Francis: Claire Cronin, A Solo Show

November 29th - December 7th, 2008

Reception: Saturday, November 29th, 8 – 11 PM

Drawing on my living room floor one day, I heard a voice that told me to draw a portrait of St. Francis and give it to my grandmother. After it was finished, I decided to keep it for a little while and do some research into the life and legends of the saint to see why he came to me at this time. After discovering a pleasing set of parallels between Francis' message and my own unsaintly struggles, I wrote him a poem. It is seven stanzas long and made of seven-syllable lines. In some occult systems, this number is said to represent the force of God in the world and the sacred order of things.

Talking to St. Francis

If the wolf lay down to have
her forehead wet, the gesture
meant for any Christian child,

and the donkey wept at your
deathbed, and the birds hovered
about your body like points

of gray light, I am asking
when this grace first entered you,
if you carried it, pregnant

with holy obligation,
before the superstitious
blood welled up in the five paths

of pain, God's own nourishment,
if you were redeemed when you
worked in the chapel, mending

rafters, praying with your ears
in the dirt at La Verna-
other saints died singing out,

like bluesmen or lunatics,
as if the warm notes could rise
and help them to fade faster.

Claire Cronin was born in 1985 and lives in the city of gurus, visions, and fictions, Los Angeles. Her work is usually an attempt to contact and explore religious longing and the talismanic quality of created things. In her mark-making and object-building, Claire's hand is loose, imperfect and playful. She believes in the subversive power of the amateur, in objects born from necessity or desperation, and in the inherent potency

of certain materials.

Claire makes paintings, drawings, objects, performances and illustrations for magazines. She also writes for and self-publishes a collaborative zine, "The Society for Salvific Love and Night Vision," which is hidden in bedrooms across the country. During the daytime, Claire teaches high school kids about poetry and art as a means of activism. She has recently shown or performed at Tiny Creatures, Eighteen-Thirty, and Sea & Space Explorations. Claire was educated at a long list of schools, finally graduating from Scripps College in 2008.

Sea and Space Explorations

4755 York Blvd, LA, CA 90042

<http://www.seaandspace.org>

Gallery is open **Sundays 1-5 PM** and by appointment

Tel.: 323-445-4015. email: info@seaandspace.org

DIRECTIONS from Los Angeles: From the 5, take the 2 north. Take the Verdugo Road exit. Left onto Eagle Rock Boulevard. Right onto York Boulevard (major cross street is Armadale Boulevard).