

SPORTSVERGNÜGEN

December 16, 2016- January 29, 2017



In Memory of the Players and the Staff of the
Brazilian Club Chapecoense, the Sports Journalists and All
Friends of the Sport who perished on their way to the 1st
leg of the Copa Sudamericana Final in Columbia.

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SPORTSVERGNÜGEN

Artists Working in Various Media

Inspired by Team Sports

**D. Dominick Lombardi
and Augustus Goertz, Curators**

With Works by:

Gennadi Barbush

Ryan Cronin

Chris Dimino

Don Doe

Cary Leibowitz

D. Dominick Lombardi

Ray Materson

Antonio Petracca

Tyson Reeder

Karen Shaw

Lewis Smith

Robert Yoder

Visual art and sports rarely mix well. Most can mention any number of successful sports related films, songs, plays and books, yet, for the visual arts, there are few major works that measure up to the greatest sports related art such as *Myron's Discobolus (Discus Thrower)* (450 B.C.E.), George Bellows iconic *Dempsey and Firpo* (1924), or, in more recent times, Catherine Opie's poignant photographic portraits of *High School, American Football players*.

When I googled in images "sports related fine art" the first thing that came up was a photograph of three old naked guys playing golf, followed by a bunch of Leroy Neiman paintings or art inspired by Leroy Neiman paintings, plus lots of very slick sports-action photographs – nothing for a contemporary art exhibition.

After months of searching, Augustus Goertz and I have selected a number of compelling works that break the mold of the aforementioned lowest common denominator-type. With our selections of sculpture, painting, collages, needlework and objects, we hope to challenge the viewer to see past the over commercialized and commoditized sports world to find a more complex and expansive reality that lies beyond money and marketability. Few artists care to admit they have an interest in sports yet there are some that see a starting point like any other aspect of popular culture: a starting point to create.

D. Dominick Lombardi

When I was a kid, I often would draw sports scenes for the entertainment of my friends. Later, I enjoyed playing sports with fellow art students. For most of my life, I have taken pleasure in some form of sports or another, usually with painters, sculptors, filmmakers, photographers, etc. Even though the history of art is replete with iconic works associated with competitive activities, the art world has kept sports at arms length, bordering on disdain.

Except in the case of their own promotional materials, the sports world, even though, athletes themselves are very obviously engaged in a self conscious effort to perfect their craft and art, seems to be very uncurious about what artists are up to.

Out of years of musing about this came the idea for this show. I discussed it with D. Dominick Lombardi, a respected curator friend, and Priska Juschka, who is so open to unusual exhibition ideas, and here we are! I am grateful to Dominick for his generosity in sharing credit with a first time curator such as myself. I have learned a lot just seeing the volumes of correspondence involved!

Game on!

Augustus Goertz



Gennadi Barbush
Mirage (2016)
 oil on linen
 30" x 36"

Gennadi Barbush paints the quieter, magical moments of sports as he captures the essence of the simple pleasures of competition whether it occurs on an icy field behind a meticulously painted stand of trees or along a sun-baked coastline where the light glows metallic across the wet sea and sand.



Gennadi Barbush
Untitled (2007)
 oil on linen
 30" x 36"



Ryan Cronin
World Record Holder (2011)
 oil on board
 48" x 58"

Ryan Cronin's style is straightforward, ranging in approaches from simple forms and off-center compositions to wildly painted symbolism, however his commentary is far more complex as he addresses the fantasy and fanaticism of sports.



Ryan Cronin
Tennis at Ten (2011)
 oil on board
 48" x 48"



Chris Dimino
Sudden Death Typewriter Table Hockey (detail) (2011)
 Parts from two typewriters/mixed media
 42" x 20" x 6"

Chris Dimino's typewriter series yields a particularly compelling, albeit Surreal result as he deconstructs then reconstructs a "Toy" Hockey Game with numbered and lettered keys and other repurposed mechanical elements.



Don Doe
Skull Ball (2016)
 mixed media with
 magazine pages
 12 3/4" x 15 3/4"

Don Doe dazzles us with his collages of team sports greatly expanding the potential narratives from *Skull Ball* (2016) to strangely syncopated soccer games. As a result, Doe captures the vibrancy and vitality – the joy of being physical, up-front and unashamed.



Don Doe
Made to Move (2016)
 mixed media with
 magazine pages
 22 1/4" x 18 3/8"



Don Doe
Skull Ball Skins (2016)
 mixed media with
 magazine pages
 14 3/8" x 19 3/4"



Don Doe
Wing Back and the Loose Ball (2016)
 mixed media with
 magazine pages
 16 3/4" x 14 3/4"



Cary Leibowitz
Official Candyass Class "Sissy" (1991)
 Pink and Blue soft foam cover "Nerf" Football emblazoned with text
 from an edition of 500, signed
 5 1/2" x 9"

Cary Leibowitz, a master editions maker, often deals with gender identity, sexual orientation and a more generalized phenomenon of self loathing. Here, he addresses those subjects, which have been a challenge for all sports to catch up with, especially, super macho American Football, with ironic humor.



D. Dominick Lombardi
Borg (1989)
 acrylic on carved
 found wood with
 objects
 30" x 14" x 12"

D. Dominick Lombardi's sculpture *Borg* (1989) was inspired by his father-in-law's intense love of soccer, a realization that was quite profound having grown up with only the triumvirate of "American" sports of the 1950s through the late 1980s of baseball, football and basketball.



Ray Materson
"Give 'em Hell, Coach!" Portrait of Michigan football coach Jim Harbaugh (2016)
 embroidery using thread from unraveled socks
 2 1/2" x 3"

Ray Materson creates astounding miniature works of art utilizing the reclaimed, colored thread from his socks. After taking his socks apart, Materson carefully and painstakingly embroiders replicas of sports trading cards and sport related photography.

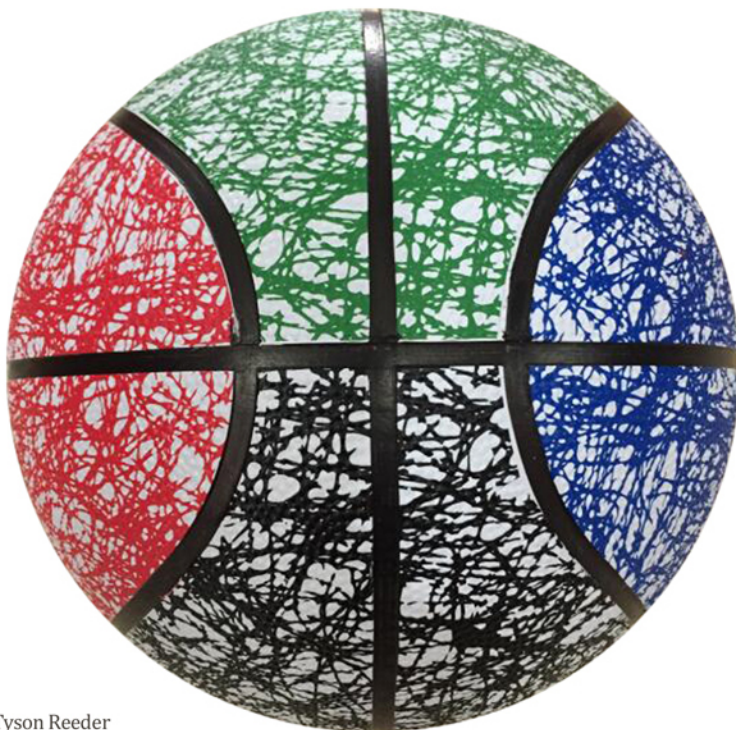


Ray Materson
Mickey Mantle (2016)
 embroidery using thread from unraveled socks
 2 1/2" x 3"



Antonio Petracca, *Two Brothers* 1973 (2011), oil on canvas on wood, 24" x 18"

Antonio Petracca takes a more personal view of sports with his beautifully painted double-portrait of himself and his brother at a game. The message that is clearly stated here is how pride and comradery, the 'spirit' of competition is what forms the best sports memories.



Tyson Reeder
4-Color Pen Ball (2016)
 BIC 4 color Ballpoint pen on
 basketball
 From a edition of 100, signed

Tyson Reeder is known for his joyful works that can find humor, beauty, and oddness in the everyday world. He is also known to experiment with found objects such as shells, and coins etc. Here, adding abstraction onto a basketball, using one of his favorite marking tools, a Bic pen, he bridges perfectly between sport and high art.

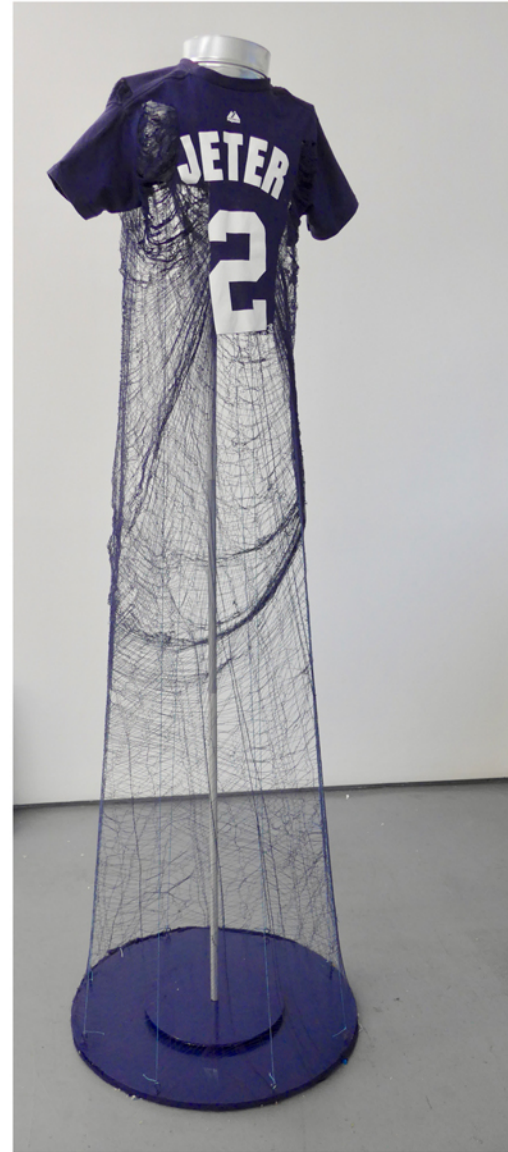


Karen Shaw
Hoop Shirt (2004)
 unraveled NBA tee
 shirt, metal
 basketball hoop
 45" x 36" x 36"

Karen Shaw is a conceptual artist who takes great care in contrasting the iconography of sports with everything from feminism to the inequality of wealth and fortune. On the other hand, her art makes us smile as she breaks down the barriers between us mere mortals and our elite athletes



Karen Shaw
Unraveling: Basketball Gown (2014)
 unraveled Knicks tee shirt,
 wire, wooden hanger
 90" x 30" x 30"



Karen Shaw
Unraveling: Yankee Baseball Gown (2014)
 unraveled Yankee tee short,
 wire, metal rods, wood
 78" x 32" x 32"

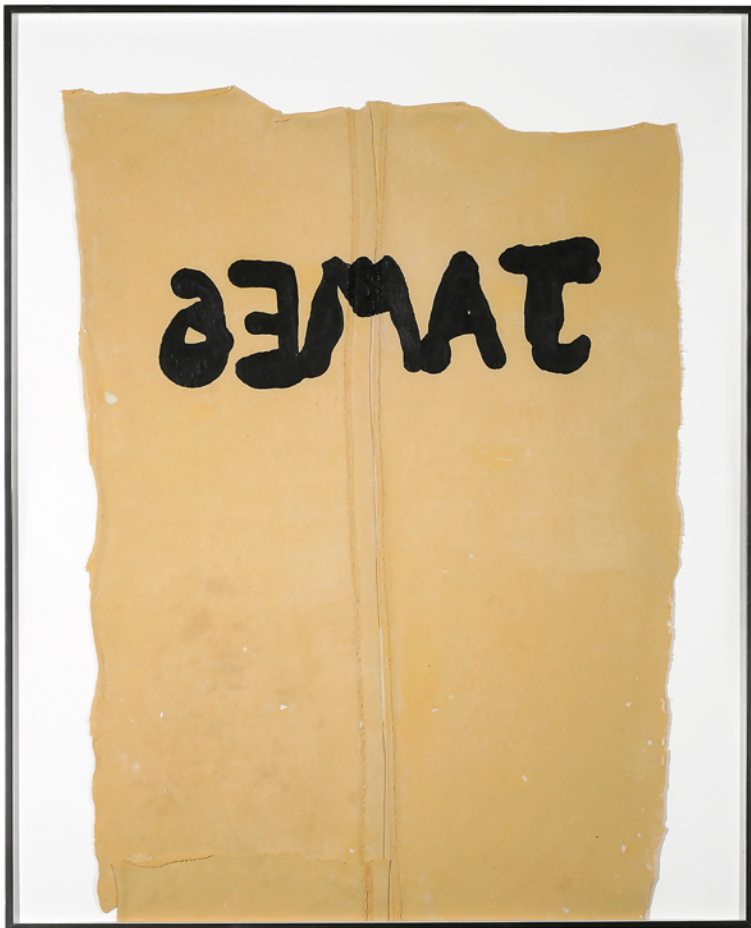


Lewis Smith
Kent (1980s)
 crayon, ink on grocery bag paper
 12" x 17"

Lewis Smith was what the art world would call an "outsider artist" as he does not come from any of the typical art tracks, nor was he educated in art and art making. What he was, was a lover of female athletes, in particular wrestlers, and with the help of a lifetime railroad pass he traveled near and far for his inspiration.



Lewis Smith
Athletic Sport (1980s)
 crayon, ink, pencil on paper
 11" x 17"



Robert Yoder, like Shaw, is a conceptual artist. With the art of Yoder, there is more of a focus on the branding. Whether it is the number on a jersey or an Iconic name, this artist brings it all down to the essence with brilliantly tactile painting techniques and straightforward lingo.



Robert Yoder
JAME6 Varsity (2015)
 Oil on tee shirts
 51" x 44"

(left)
 Robert Yoder
JAME6 Champion II (2015)
 Acrylic on tee shirt
 24" x 18"