



Emily Mast, *It will never be known how this has to be told*, 2010. Digital photograph.

**Emily Mast**  
**It will never be known how this has to be told**

Curated by Andrew Berardini

March 20 - April 17, 2010

Opening Reception  
 Saturday, March 20, 2010, 6 - 8PM

And in a way I'm hoping  
 To be done with all these looks of disbelief.  
 An eye for an eye  
 And a tooth for a tooth  
 And anyway there was no proof  
 Nor a motive why...

And the mercy seat is waiting  
 And I think my head is burning  
 And in a way I'm yearning  
 To be done with all this measuring of truth.  
 An eye for an eye  
 And a tooth for a tooth  
 And anyway I told the truth  
 And I'm not afraid to die.

-Nick Cave, "The Mercy Seat"

Chicago Tribune  
 Man executed on disproved forensics:  
 Fire that killed his 3 children could have been  
 accidental  
 By Steve Mills and Maurice Possley  
 December 9, 2004

CORSICANA, Texas - Strapped to a gurney in  
 Texas' death chamber earlier this year, just  
 moments from his execution for setting a fire  
 that killed his three daughters, Cameron Todd  
 Willingham declared his innocence one last time.

"I am an innocent man, convicted of a crime I  
 did not commit," Willingham said angrily. "I have  
 been persecuted for 12 years for something I  
 did not do."

A boy's voice tells the story of a fire. Three children dead, their father executed for their murders. The boy is an innocent attempting to tell the story of another, doubt infecting both.

We have a set for a children's play that will never occur, where color and texture tell the stories better than words, though words try. The boy's voice echoes in the chamber, he tangles up words like "arkus" for "arson" and "smoke simulation" for "smoke inhalation." Papier mâché rubble mixes with the real, theatrical lights set close to the ground point toward an accumulation of beige, taupe, and grey clothing, the shadows play behind it onto three seamless paper backdrops (grey, orange, grey), red and orange dust cover the scene. Kiddie theatrics blend with art history: Joseph Beuys legends shifted outwards away from the myth of the artist and employed to unclench other modern myths, hard-edged abstraction goes soft, billows out, enshrouds, both losing their soap boxes for something much more ambiguous, personal, misfortunate.

**Emily Mast** lives and works in Los Angeles. She works primarily with performance, sound and writing. She recently participated in Performa 09 and has had solo shows at the Roski Gallery in Los Angeles, Samson Projects in Boston, and The Paris Project Room in Paris. She was a resident artist at Yaddo, Skowhegan, and participated in the Mountain School of Art and untidenationsplaza, Berlin. In 2009, she received her MFA from USC.

**Andrew Berardini** is a writer living in Los Angeles. He's worked on projects with Bruce Nauman, Piero Golia, Lawrence Weiner, Yoshua Okon and Raymond Pettibon.

S T E V E T U R N E R C O N T E M P O R A R Y

Steve Turner Contemporary is an art gallery based in Los Angeles that represents the work of emerging and established contemporary artists. Gallery hours are Wednesday – Saturday, 11– 6pm. Please contact the gallery for further information.

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