

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Alphabet: An Exhibition of Hand-Drawn Lettering and Experimental Typography

Baltimore, MD — Post Typography and Artscape are pleased to announce *Alphabet: An Exhibition of Hand-Drawn Lettering and Experimental Typography*. Following the successful opening exhibition in July 2005 at the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore, *Alphabet* is now traveling nationally through 2009.

Focusing on an ordinary subject that we see each day, often in the hundreds of thousands, *Alphabet* presents 26 letters as more than just shapes for conveying information. The 51 artists and designers in this show conceive and interpret the alphabet in surprising and inventive ways, ranging from graceful and polished to witty and subversive. The 63 alphabets featured in *Alphabet* were created by artists in North America, Europe, and Asia, representing work from well-known typographers such as Ed Fella and Ken Barber to young, rising artists such as Sweden's Hjarta Smärta and Andrew Jeffrey Wright of Philadelphia's Space 1026.

The alphabets in the exhibition reflect a range of thinking about lettering that encompasses the conceptual, illustrative, typographic, and beyond. Some of the artists have created their alphabets from a variety of non-traditional media or found objects. Andrew Byrom constructed a series of 26 welded, steel frame tables and chairs, which when viewed from certain angles form a lowercase alphabet (some chairs may be more functional than others). A likeminded, though more fluid approach to dimensional letters is Reagan Marshall's "Body Language", exhibited as a series of photographs which document a "typographic ballet." In the performance, the dancer contorts herself inside a specially-constructed spandex bag to create letters from the human form. Taking a more structured approach, Apirat Infahsaeng conscripts a series of board games to serve typography—one alphabet uses a Connect Four frame as a matrix for a complete character set, while another uses the elements of a Tangrams puzzle to explore different configurations of geometric characters.

Elaine Lustig Cohen's modularly-constructed alphabet achieves a similar result to Infahsaeng's "Tangrams". Cohen is one of a group of influential American designers whose work brought the ideas of European Modernism to the American graphic design mainstream in the 1950s. Her alphabet, an homage to her late husband (the designer Alvin Lustig), is created solely from geometric letterpress ornaments and reflects a Bauhaus-like rationality and formal approach to letterform construction. Other artists in *Alphabet* echo Cohen's modernist approach with their own modular fonts. Tore Terrasi's animated alphabet "Whimcircle" is composed of various combinations of different-sized circles. Using a minimum of visual elements, each letter forms an abstracted facial expression as the circles rearrange themselves.

TRAVEL SCHEDULE

Following *Alphabet's* close in Baltimore, the exhibition continues to travel to a series of universities and galleries in the United States. Upcoming venues include:

- Current Gallery / Baltimore, MD / April 2009 (homecoming show)
- Chaffee College / Los Angeles, CA / August–September 2009 (final exhibition)

Previous venues:

- Southern Illinois University / Edwardsville, IL / October–November 2008
- The Art Institute of Portland / Portland, OR / June–July 2008
- The Art Institute of Seattle / Seattle, WA / May 2008
- Ohio Northern University / Ada, OH / December 2007
- The Cooper Union / New York, NY / October 2007
- AIGA Orlando / Orlando, Florida / July 2007
- Minnesota College of Art & Design / Minneapolis, MN / February–March 2007
- Pennsylvania College of Art & Design / Lancaster, PA / January 2007
- Northern Illinois University / DeKalb, IL / November 2006
- Workhorse Gallery / Los Angeles, CA / March 2006
- M-80 / Milwaukee, WI / January–February 2006
- Heaven Gallery / Chicago, IL / November 2005
- Lump Gallery / Raleigh, NC / August 2005
- Maryland Institute College of Art / Baltimore, MD / July 2005

POST TYPOGRAPHY

Originally conceived and founded as an avant garde anti-design movement by Nolen Strals and Bruce Willen, Post Typography specializes in graphic design, conceptual typography, and custom lettering/illustration with additional forays into art, apparel, music, curatorial work, design theory, and vandalism. Their work has received numerous fancy design awards and has been featured in such publications as Ellen Lupton's *Thinking With Type*, *The Art of Modern Rock*, *Metropolis Magazine*, and upcoming design surveys from Taschen and Phaidon. Post Typography has appeared in multiple exhibitions, and their posters are collected by high school punk rockers and prominent designers, whom they consider equally important. Strals and Willen currently teach classes in advanced typography at the Maryland Institute College of Art, and have lectured at the Cooper Union, MCAD, and Harvard University among others.

ARTSCAPE

Artscape, Baltimore's annual arts festival and the largest arts festival in the region, celebrated its 26th anniversary in 2007. Hundreds of thousands of visitors attend Artscape each year to experience the festival's popular schedule of music, dance, fashion, theater, opera, literary arts, and film. In addition to the three day festival (July 22 to 24, 2005), a series of high-quality, curated visual arts exhibitions and events take place at venues throughout the city during the month of July. *Alphabet* is among these exhibits, many of which are organized by internationally recognized artists and curators, and feature a range of excellent contemporary art from Baltimore and around the world.

Artscape is produced by the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts

ALPHABET ARTIST LIST

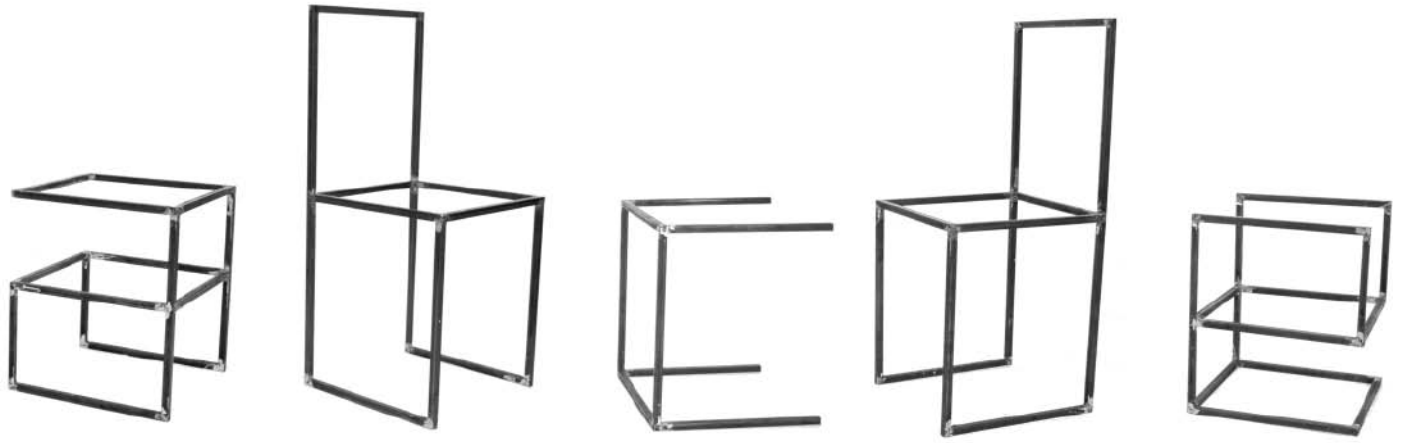
Marc Alcock - Blackpool, United Kingdom
Mike Apichella - Baltimore, MD
Ken Barber - Wilmington, DE
Beppi - Baltimore, MD
Kyle Bravo - New Orleans, LA
Andrew Byrom - North Aurora, IL
Paul Clark - Brooklyn, NY
Ryan Compton - Baltimore, MD
Ryan Corey - Los Angeles, CA
Elaine Lustig Cohen - New York, NY
Delvetica - Tampines, Singapore
E*Rock - Portland, OR
Edward Fella - Valencia, CA
Danielle Foushée - Studio City, CA
Nancy Guiragossian - Montreal, QC
Sibylle Hagmann - Houston, TX
Catherine Hahm - Los Angeles, CA
Tristan Benedict Hall - Baltimore, MD
Drew Heffron - Charleston, SC
Rich Helfrich - Bethel Park, PA
Hjärta Smärta - Stockholm, Sweden
Daniel C. Howe - New York, NY
Apirat Infahsaeng - Brooklyn, NY
Christopher Jackson - Providence, RI
Roman Jaster - Valencia, CA
Jonathan Keller - Pittsburgh, PA

MiHyun Kim - New Bedford, MA
Seth Labenz and Roy Rub - New York, NY
Jean Larcher - Pontoise, France
Andrew Liang - Baltimore, MD
Julie Libersat - Baltimore, MD
Lump Lipshitz - Raleigh, NC
Ian Lynam - Tokyo, Japan
Reagan Marshall - Los Angeles CA
Eduard Matamoros - Round Rock, TX
Michael McErlean - Burbank, IL
Maya Esther Miller - Brooklyn, NY
Jason Monburg - Baltimore, MD
Arjen Noordeman - North Adams, MA
Paul Nudd - Chicago, IL
Elisabeth Prescott - San Francisco, CA
Luke Ramsey and A. Purdy - Victoria, BC
C. W. Roelle - Providence, RI
Theo A. Rosenblum - New York, NY
Tore Terrasi - Raynham, MA
Underware - Den Haag, Netherlands
VisuaLingual - Cambridge, MA
Eric Von Munz - Milwaukee, WI
Western Cell Division - Baltimore, MD
Karen Willey - Amsterdam, Netherlands
Andrew Jeffrey Wright - Philadelphia, PA
Tory Wright - Raleigh, NC

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For more information on *Alphabet* or to obtain high-resolution images please contact:
Bruce Willen / alphabet@posttypography.com / 410.889.7469
www.posttypography.com/alphabet

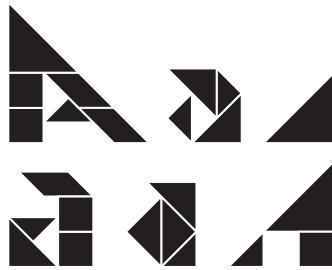
For more information on Artscape:
www.artscape.org or 1-877-BALTIMORE



Andrew Byrom — *Interiors* (A,B,C,D,E)



Reagan Marshall — *Body Language* (X)



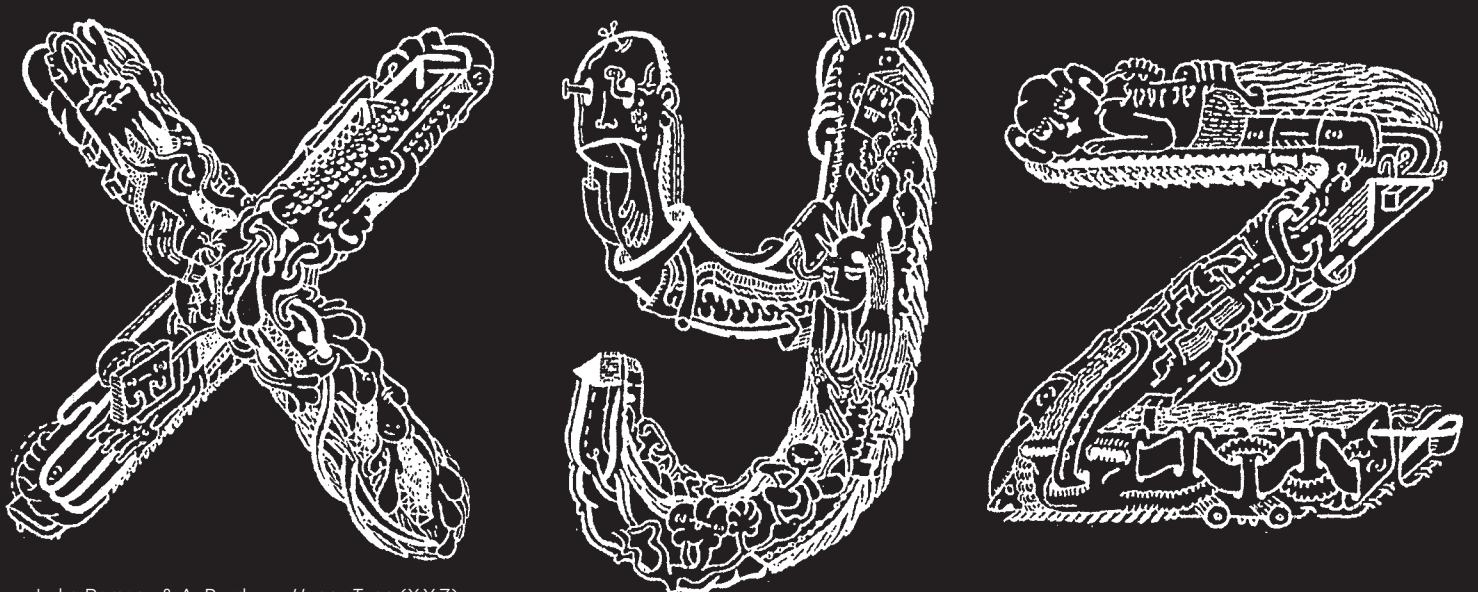
Apirat Infahsaeng — *Tangrams* (A)



Elaine Lustig Cohen — *Euclid* (X,Y,Z)



Tore Terrasi — *Whimcircle Night* (O,P,Q,R)



Luke Ramsey & A. Purdy — *Hyper Type* (X,Y,Z)



Alphabet on display at the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore



Alphabet opening July 15, 2005 in Baltimore



Three-dimensional wire exhibition sign by C.W. Roelle