

What goes up, must come down

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The ways in which we are bound to the Earth are constantly pushed to their limits.

The aerodynamics of flight, the weightlessness of space exploration, or even a simple jump from the ground allow us to experience a feeling of falling out – of detaching ourselves from what keeps us in place.

Last week, the Blackwood Gallery unveiled its 2009 exhibition entitled *Fall Out*, a collection of works by nine artists that reflect the phenomenon of gravity and “defy and confirm its inevitable pull,” as Gallery Curator Christof Migone explains. The exhibition stretches into the E-Gallery to showcase the realm of the individual, featuring works which highlight the processes and effects of breathing.

Paul Litherland’s video installations, entitled *Forces of Attraction* and *Freefall Fighters*, document his countless falls to the Earth as a skydiver, incorporating humorous elements such as the flapping of his cheeks and traditional boxing while falling through the air. *Freefall Fighters* marks the 30th anniversary of Litherland’s first jump at the age of 17.

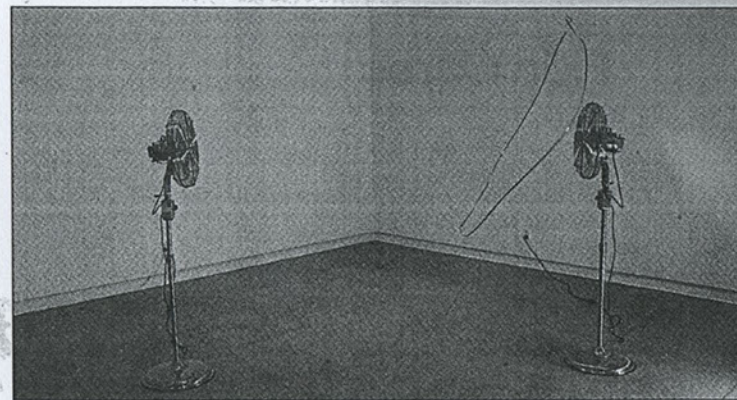
Robbin Cumming’s dual exhibit features a large, canvassed photograph entitled *Many Shades of Pink, White Light, Undone, My Heart is Breaking* from her *Little Legs* series, as well as an untitled portrait from a second series called *Oh, Mother*.

Little Legs explores the artist’s interest in the relationship between humans and objects, as well as finding the intrigue and significance in ordinary situations. *Oh, Mother* encapsulates maternal existence in an

idealized rendering so that her mistakes make her eventual fall from grace all the more profound and dejected. Cumming’s display will feature a new portrait from each series every week, simply laid atop the previous work to show a transition over the weeks.

A very delicate exhibit entitled *Delete* by Kristiina Lahde features a train of paper that has been repeatedly hole-punched to resemble the shape of the word “delete,” creating the effect of handcrafted lace in the process. The paper cascades over a stand and into a heap on the floor, comparable to the outflow of data from a computer.

The most eye-catching piece currently on display (as students waiting for class outside the gallery will attest) is *O Between Fans*, an installation of two electric fans facing each other and creating an air flow, resulting in



Matthew Filipowich/The Medium

O Between Fans, as seen in the Blackwood Gallery as part of the *Fall Out* exhibition.

the mid-air suspension of a loop of video tape. The artist has meticulously placed the fans at a specific distance and angle from each other, in order to generate the precise condi-

tion in which the tape can flutter in the air for hours.

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