

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.

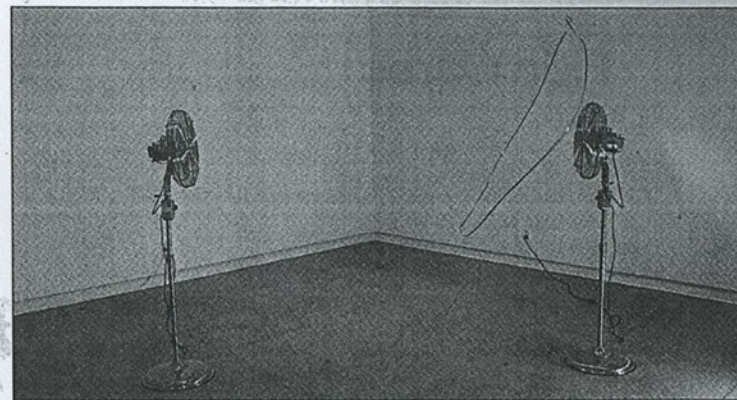
Robbin Cumming’s dual exhibit features a large, canvassed photograph entitled *Many Shades of Pink, White Light, Undone, My Heart is Breaking* from her *Little Legs* series, as well as an untitled portrait from a second series called *Oh, Mother*.

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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