

**TopSpin**  
Artists of Western New York and Beyond

**Amy Greenan: Nothing Was About to Happen**

February 1 - May 17, 2009

Opening Reception with artist talk Sunday, February 1, 2:00-4:00 p.m.



**amygreenan**

#### ARTIST STATEMENT

Disappointments and shortcomings are at the heart of the human experience, and lately have served as jumping off points in my creative practice. In a quite literal tip of the hat to the past, many of the pieces in this exhibition are those resuscitated from my studio's archives—paintings and drawings that had been tucked away out of disinterest or disappointment. Through this work, I am reconstructing my past and those events that occurred within it—real or imagined, dreamt of or heard about. Everyone deserves a second chance.

Woven into simple visual narratives using words and pictures from a laundry list of sources, these works are often injected with the absurd and surreal, heavily influenced by graphic design work I do by day and comic books I have read voraciously throughout the years. With directed paint drips, written and then obscured notations, cartoon bubbles, viscera, muted voices, and incomplete thoughts, I make assumptions. With an infusion of nostalgia, confusion, and longing, I extrapolate a story from morsels of truth—so that it might become something else entirely.



*South 626 Four Rod Rd., Oct. 1974 (first rendition), 2009, Acrylic on canvas, 48 x 40 inches*



*Lady Godiva's Operation, 2008, Acrylic on canvas, 42 x 30 inches*

For all the potential that visual arts have to enrich our lives and reflect society's direction, an artist's creations are often a powerful venue for self reflection. Amy Greenan's new work is based on the purity of visual impulses that compel her selection of subject matter, medium, and materials. Growing out of her post-graduate figurative work featuring intense, unabashed, and passionate reflections of self, Greenan's latest work is elevated to a new level through what she describes as "a desire to take the figure into a new direction."

While there continue to be aspects of personal trials, tribulations, and self discovery in her work, she has matured with a boldness of imagery, an infusion of memoir-like notations, and stylized font appropriations. Greenan's images range from painterly renditions of houses and Hudson Valley landscapes to unyielding self portraits.

Derived in part from her self-portraits, the house paintings are "ripe with metaphors...exuding additional facets of the body," states Greenan. Particularly in *6801 Maple Rd.* (2009), the house functions as a different type of vessel entirely—as a literal body of expression or containment. Like the body, they shelter and enclose elements of character and memory. Conversely, interiors once emptied become elements of abandonment and isolation. As a house becomes a home, the mind develops and refines memories through the ongoing act of reflecting on one's life and actions.

The paintings *Lady Godiva's Operation* (2008) and *The Fetch* (2008) function as doppelgangers of sorts. At first, appearing as a double portrait, these works respond to each other more as a reflection or peripheral vision. Doppelgangers



*The Strange Hill in the Hudson I, 2008, Acrylic on canvas, 40 x 24 inches*

have historically been seen as omens, as if one might have advance knowledge of an impending achievement or exploit. In *Lady Godiva's Operation*, the disquieting void of the black background is interrupted by the sinister red cloud-form as it appears over the shoulder of the figure. It reads as if an emerging apparition is preceding an uncertain course of action. These works present an uncomfortable feeling of uncertainty, foreshadowing some misdirection or obscuring the true intentions behind the works.

Greenan's exhibition continues with a generous number of small works on paper. These works incorporate mono-printing, commercial appropriation, and handworking. They are more immediate and intimate, "functioning as working diaries," states the artist. The sporadic writing and short notations employ voyeuristic undertones, offering the viewer brief looks into her private life.

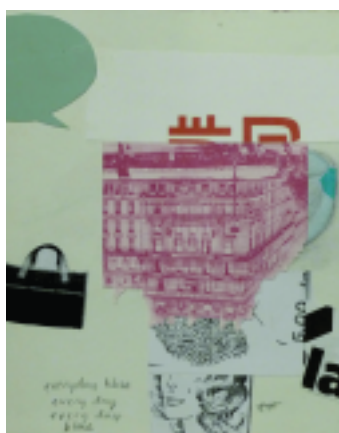
Greenan's use of "passive codes" and privately relevant images allow her to take chances visually and experiment with arrangement and design. These works on paper offer insights into her meditative process of creativity. Each one is an idea, feeling, or emotion liberated through the act of creation.

*Nothing Was About to Happen* offers viewers a glimpse into Greenan's private world. Each work of art provides a sense of mystery and nostalgia for facets of life lived as well as the anticipation of experiences to come. She intentionally omits and limits the amount of visual information shared, provoking viewers into misinterpretations. Ultimately, through her own intentions, her works reflect a sense of place, taking note that place is not always singular—past or present.

**Michael Beam**  
Curator of Exhibitions and Collections



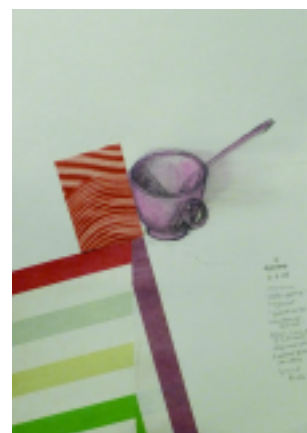
*Don't Settle, 2008*  
Mixed media, 5.5 x 7.5 inches



*Every Day Blue, 2008*  
Mixed media, 11.5 x 13.5 inches



*Insomnia, 2008*  
Mixed media, 15.5 x 14.25 inches



*Miss Goetz, 2008*  
Mixed media, 13.5 x 16.75 inches

# Amy Greenan [www.amygreenan.com](http://www.amygreenan.com)

The artist will present a workshop **Invisible Voices: Zines as Art** at the Castellani Art Museum on Sunday, May 3, 2:00-4:00 p.m. For more information and to RSVP, please contact curator Michael Beam at 716-286-8286 or [mjbeam@niagara.edu](mailto:mjbeam@niagara.edu).

Amy Greenan studied painting and drawing at the State University of New York, Purchase receiving her Bachelor of Fine Arts in 1993; she continued her studies at the University at Buffalo receiving a Master of Fine Arts degree in 2007. She grew up in a small farming town in Western New York to sympathetic parents who encouraged her artistic interests. Greenan currently

resides in Niagara Falls, New York, where she maintains an active studio in a modest Arts & Crafts bungalow near the Niagara Gorge with her partner and four cats.

As an unwavering advocate of the *Do-It-Yourself* movement, Greenan has also been making zines, self-published, photocopied magazines, as an alternate art form for over a decade. She is a

member of the Western New York Book Arts Collaborative and has participated in the Buffalo Small Press Book Fair and Canzine in Toronto, Canada.

Greenan has exhibited her paintings, drawings, prints, books, and zines locally and nationally. Her work is included in private collections in the United States and Canada.

b. 1970, Buffalo, NY. Greenan currently resides in Niagara Falls, NY where she maintains an active studio.

## EDUCATION

**2007** Master of Fine Arts, Visual Studies, State University of New York at Buffalo.

**1993** Bachelor of Fine Arts, State University of New York at Purchase.

## SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

*Solo exhibitions are indicated with an asterisk (\*).*

### 2008

"The Last Minute Show," Burnwood Studios, Buffalo, NY.

"Members' Show," Hallwalls Contemporary Art Center, Buffalo, NY.

### 2007

"Fur," College Street Gallery, Buffalo, NY.\*

"Facts and Figures," RedFish studios, East Aurora, NY.\*

"Members' Show," Big Orbit Gallery, Buffalo, NY.

"Converge II," SPAS Gallery, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY.

### 2006

"Evolution of Cut & Paste," Asheville Bookworks, Asheville, NC.

"Ascension... in the Basement," University at Buffalo Art Department Gallery, NY.

"Showpocalypse," University at Buffalo Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY.

"Members' Show," Big Orbit Gallery, Buffalo, NY.

**2005** "Women's Invitational," Stuart Steiner Theatre at Genesee Center for the Arts, Genesee Community College, Batavia, NY.

### 2004

"Evolution of Cut & Paste," Parsons School of Design, Gimbels Library, New York, NY.

"Art of Zines 04," San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose, CA.

"13th Annual Regional Artists Exhibit," Art Dialogue Gallery, Buffalo, NY.

**1998** "Open House Exhibition," Luminous Studios in the Great Arrow Building, Buffalo, NY.

**1994** "Members' Show," Big Orbit Gallery, Buffalo, NY.

### 1992

"Senior Show," Butler Building at Purchase College, Purchase, NY.

"REALFigurations," Purchase College Visual Arts Gallery, Purchase, NY.\*

**1991** "The Alumni of Antonio Frasconi," Purchase College Visual Arts Gallery, Purchase, NY.

## GRANTS/AWARDS/RESIDENCIES

**2008** New York Foundation for the Arts, Special Opportunity Stipend.

New York Foundation for the Arts, MARK Professional Development Program.

**2007** Professional Development Award, State University of New York at Buffalo.

**2006** Mark Diamond Research Fellowship, State University of New York at Buffalo.

**2005-2007** College of Arts & Sciences Fellowship, State University of New York at Buffalo.

**2005-2007** Full Tuition Scholarship and Teaching Assistantship with stipend, Department of Visual Studies, State University of New York at Buffalo.

**2005** Student's Choice Award, Women's Invitational, Genesee Community College, Batavia, NY.

**2000** Morrison Scholarship, State University of New York at Buffalo.

**1994** Honorable Mention, *Big Orbit Gallery Members' Show*, Buffalo, NY.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### 2006

Paul Clark, "DIY magazine/book show wraps up stay in West Asheville," *Citizen Times*, Asheville, NC, December 8, 2006.

Connie Bostic, "A bunch of cut-ups," *Moutain XPress*, Asheville, NC, November 22, 2006.

Kara Bennett, "*Showpocalypse* Not the End, But the Beginning," *The Spectrum*, Buffalo, NY, March 6, 2006.

### 2005

Colleen Hubbard, "A New Exhibit of Buffalo Zines Opens at UB," *ARTVOICE*, Buffalo, NY, March 24, 2005, p. 17.

### 2004

Richard Huntington, "Regional Artists Exhibition Features Collection of Solid Work," *The Buffalo News*, Buffalo, NY, November 23, 2004.

Cynnie Gaasch, "Accomplished and Devoted," *ARTVOICE*, Buffalo, NY, November 11, 2004, p. 17.

## PUBLICATIONS

**1995-now** *HPRS* and *Pumpkin* zines (self-published, seventeen issues)

**1996** *Silver Shorts* comic book (self-published)

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**2007-current** Marketing Graphic Designer, Prometheus Books, Amherst, NY.

**2006-2007** Gallery Assistant, State University of New York at Buffalo, Art Department Gallery, Buffalo, NY.

**2005-2007** Teaching Assistant, State University of New York at Buffalo.

**2001-current** Graphic Designer, State University of New York at Buffalo Office, Department of Music Concert Office, Buffalo, NY.

**2000** Typography Internship, P22 Type Foundry, Buffalo, NY.

**1991-1992** Instructor's Assistant (Painting), Summer Program, Idyllwild School of Music and the Arts, Idyllwild, CA.

**1989-1990** Registrar's Assistant, Museum of Cartoon Art, Rye Brook, NY.

## LECTURES/ARTIST PRESENTATIONS

### 2008

Hallwalls Contemporary Art Center, Buffalo, New York, New York Foundation for the Arts MARK Program.

Smack Mellon, Brooklyn, New York, New York Foundation for the Arts MARK Program.

### 2003-2006

Zines, Graphic Reproduction Processes class, State University of New York at Buffalo, NY.

## Exhibition Checklist

*South 626 Four Rod Rd.*, Oct. 1974, 2009, Acrylic on canvas, 48 x 40 inches

*Hot*, 2008, Acrylic on canvas, 22 x 24 inches

*Lady Godiva's Operation*, 2008, Acrylic on canvas, 42 x 30 inches  
*The Fetch*, 2008, Acrylic on canvas, 42 x 30 inches

*The Conversation (It Really Does)*, 2008, Acrylic on canvas, 40 x 18.5 inches

*The Strange Hill in the Hudson I*, 2008, Acrylic on canvas, 40 x 24 inches

*The Strange Hill in the Hudson II*, 2008, Acrylic on canvas, 36 x 24 inches

*6801 Maple Rd.*, 2009, Acrylic on canvas, 60 x 48 inches

*Go Tell It on the Mountain*, 2008, Acrylic and collage on canvas, 12 x 14 inches

*Flop*, 2008, Collage on wood, 5.5 x 8.75 inches

*Escape Plan*, 2008, Mixed media, 7.25 x 9.25 inches

*You Feel Awkward*, 2008, Mixed media, 7.25 x 9.25 inches  
*1972*, 2008, Mixed media, 5.5 x 7.5 inches

*Franco Nero*, 2008, Mixed media, 5.5 x 7.5 inches

*Don't Settle*, 2008, Mixed media, 5.5 x 7.5 inches

*Every Day Blue*, 2008, Mixed media, 11.5 x 13.5 inches

*Insomnia*, 2008, Mixed media, 15.5 x 14.25 inches

*Miss Goetz*, 2008, Mixed media, 13.5 x 16.75 inches

*Mary Mary*, 2008, Mixed media, 13.25 x 16.5 inches

*Intervention*, 2008, Mixed media, 16.75 x 16.5 inches

*Pink Steam*, 2008, Mixed media, 15.75 x 17.5 inches

*Vero Reve*, 2007, Acrylic on paper, 12.25 x 20.5 inches

*A Pinch to Grow an Inch*, 2008, Mixed media, 9.5 x 15.5 inches

*Heart & Lungs, Knees & Toes*, 2008, Mixed media, 10.5 x 16.5 inches

*Study for Lady Godiva's Operation*, 2008, Acrylic on paper, 17 x 17.5 inches

*Include Me Out*, 2009, Acrylic on wood panel, 18 x 18 inches

*Nothing Was about to Happen*, 2009, Acrylic on wood panel, 22.25 x 24 inches

*A Supposed Day Like Any Other*, 2009, Acrylic on canvas, 24 x 10 inches

*When We Dream, We Travel through Time and Space*, 2009, Acrylic on canvas, 24 x 18 inches

*My Wandering Days Are Over*, 2009, Acrylic on canvas, 18 x 12 inches

*Some Things Last a Long Time*, 2009, Mixed media, 30 x 22 inches

*Nico the Fantastic*, 2008, Acrylic on canvas, 12 x 20 inches

*Please*, 2004, Mixed media, 12 x 9 inches

*Sugar for Love*, 2009, Mixed media, 7.25 x 9.25 inches

*Trouble in the Underworld*, 2009, Mixed media, 7.25 x 9.25 inches

*With Best Wishes to LG*, 2009, Mixed media, 7.25 x 9.25 inches

*After School Special*, 2009, Mixed media, 7.25 x 9.25 inches

*Anything Could Happen*, 2009, Mixed media, 6.5 x 8.5 inches

# TOPSPIN

Artists of the Buffalo/ Niagara Region

The museum's Tops Gallery—dedicated to the exhibition of work by local and regional artists—presents the **TopSpin** series. **TopSpin** features a broad range of visual expressions, varied in media as well as message, and focuses mainly on new and emerging artists.

**TopSpin** is made possible through the generous Support of Tops Friendly Markets, LLC.

# TOPS



NYSCA  
New York State Council on the Arts

This Exhibition is made possible, in part, through generous support from the New York State Council on the Arts.

Catalog design: JCharlier Communication Design



# CASTELLANI ART MUSEUM OF NIAGARA UNIVERSITY

[www.niagara.edu/cam](http://www.niagara.edu/cam)

## Museum and Shop

Niagara University, NY 14109-1938  
716.286.8200 fax: 716.286.8289

Tuesday to Saturday  
11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Docent tours available upon request.  
Call 716.286.8200 for additional information.

## Castellani Art Museum at the Falls

Conference Center Niagara Falls  
101 Old Falls Street  
Niagara Falls, NY 14303

716.286.8200 fax: 716.286.8289

Monday to Friday,  
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.