

Drain and aquaspace present –

THAW – The Meltdown

A Panel and discussion forum that celebrates the launch of Cold Issue of 11 of *Drain* - A Journal of Contemporary Art and Culture

May 21, 6pm -The Atlanta Contemporary Arts Center, Atlanta

ABOUT THAW - While this forthcoming issue is interested in Cold as an aesthetic experience and concept of our times, THAW takes this investigation a step further through conversation and dialogues that address the aftermath of the residual coldness. THAW, an active and conversational panel with the audience and panelists will examine in the *Calm after the Cold storm* and its effect on community, politics and simple meditative practices

Panelists

Joelle Dietrick - Artist, <http://joelledietrick.com>

Jeffery Grove - Wieland Family Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, The High Museum

Celina Jeffery - Curator and Art Historian, Ottawa, Canada (will join the panel via Skype)

Owen Mundy - Artist, <http://owenmundy.com/>

Fahamu Peecou - Artist and Activist, <http://www.fahamupecouart.com/>

Shannon Stratton - Artist and Chief Curator of Three-Walls, <http://www.three-walls.org/>

Moderators

Avantika Bawa – Artist, co-founder of drainmag.com –www.avantikabawa.com

Stuart Keeler - Artist, curator and writer www.Stuart-Keeler.com

The goal of the interactive panel will be to create a critical climate and discussion centered with The Contemporary as a center of artist practice. The panel will be questioning with active participation from audience questions such as-

- Can transparent, clear and meditative practice counter this lavish, hot & hysterical culture into something cold?
- Subverting the old notion of icy bureaucratic indifference remediated through hot empathy; might the forces of hot commodity be slowed by an intervening cold?
- Is it possible for the lucidity of coolness to connect cultures & move us into the future?

What Is COLD?

Is Cold a new minimal aesthetic? Can cold become a collective behavior of baroque, abundant consumption which has led to an economic and climatic meltdown? Is the recent economy proof that the push now in global culture is moving toward a frenzied emphasis on growth & mass consumption? In the wake of recent collapse, are the purity, simplicity & refinement of a calmer and cooler culture more alluring?

Goals

It is our aim to produce a platform that has a variety of connections to the political climate of our time, as well present an ephemeral conversation in the wake of the current collapse. COLD creates an online community and THAW will enliven the Atlanta community with the exhibition, and panel discussion. *Drain* will have a documented page (Under the aquaspace section) of the happenings of THAW, which will assist in galvanizing the Atlanta community, as well as encourage discussion about the topics and artists presented.

Drain is a refereed online journal published biannually. The journal seeks to promote lively and well-informed debate around theory and praxis. Each issue of *Drain* will have a specific concept that it explores. We are especially keen to publish pieces that connect the conceptual framework of each issue to themes such as globalization, gender, ethnicity, sexuality, capitalism and new technologies, as well as ethical and aesthetic concerns. As such, we welcome creative responses to contemporary culture, as well as written work by practitioners in the field of culture. Our primary mission is to provide an environment where a variety of creative activities can be explored with a combination of sensitivity and rigor.

MANAGERIAL BOARD AVANTIKA BAWA, CELINA JEFFERY, ADRIAN PARR, FOR MORE INFORMATION - avantika@drainmag.com