

# NEVIN KELLY

GALLERY

NEVIN KELLY GALLERY PRESENTS “ZEITGEIST II: WHAT’S IMPORTANT NOW,” A GROUP EXHIBITION OF WORKS BY LOCAL ARTISTS

*Show runs November 19 through December 12, 2009; Opening Reception, Thursday, November 19 from 6:00 until 9:00 pm.*

*What’s Important Now?* will open November 19 at Nevin Kelly Gallery, 1400 Irving Street, NW #132 in Washington, DC. For the second installment in their “zeitgeist” series, curators ELLYN WEISS and SONDRAN. ARKIN have asked local artists CAROL BEANE, SCOTT G. BROOKS, JUDY BYRON, GROOVER CLEVELAND, RICHARD DANA, ANNA U. DAVIS, THOMAS DRYMON, AZIZA CLAUDIA GIBSON-HUNTER, DEB JANSEN, ROSINA MEMOLO, MICHAEL PLATT, RENÉE STOUT, TIM TATE, and RUTH TREVARROW to join them in presenting their views on what the participating artists see as the most important issues of our day.

In preparation for the show, artists Sondra Arkin and Judy Byron are collaborating on a piece that will incorporate answers from the public to the question “what’s important to you?” The public is invited to provide answers, in 10 words or less, at [www.important2you.com](http://www.important2you.com). People can follow the project on Facebook and on Twitter @important2you.

The show is a follow-up to the curators’ first “zeitgeist” show, *Under Surveillance*, hosted by Nevin Kelly Gallery in October 2008. In that show 12 local artists were invited to address what Arkin and Weiss saw as one of the most important elements of the then-prevailing ethos: “the increasingly diminishing zone of personal privacy available to all of us as we are constantly under surveillance by a growing array of government, corporate and media technologies.”

In their statement for *What’s Important Now?*, the curators explain their new theme: “Just as the 2008 show was being dismantled, the world started to pivot again in ways that we are just beginning to assimilate. George Bush and Dick Cheney et al. are gone and Barack Obama is here. The new zeitgeist is full of ironies. For example, our government is finally facing up to global warming at the same time that we all now own GM, whose products bear major responsibility for a lot of it. New on the scene, along with Obama, are Bernie Madoff and his apparently numerous larcenous cohort, vanishing retirement accounts, a stock market meltdown and the demise of one after another giant Wall Street financial house. People just flat stopped buying things and many felt liberated at the same time they are financially constrained. The future is anything but certain.

“It is apparent to us that the zeitgeist has shifted dramatically and it seems like the perfect time to ask artists to respond to this question: “What’s important now?” We don’t want to limit responses to a single subject or viewpoint but to leave the artists room to reflect on this question individually.”

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*What's Important Now?* will be on display from November 19 until December 12, 2009 in the gallery's space in Unit 132 of the Highland Park Building, 1400 Irving Street NW, Washington DC . The public is invited to an opening reception with the artists on Thursday, November 19, from 6:00 until 9:00 pm. The gallery is open Tuesdays and Thursday through Saturday, noon to 6:00 p.m.