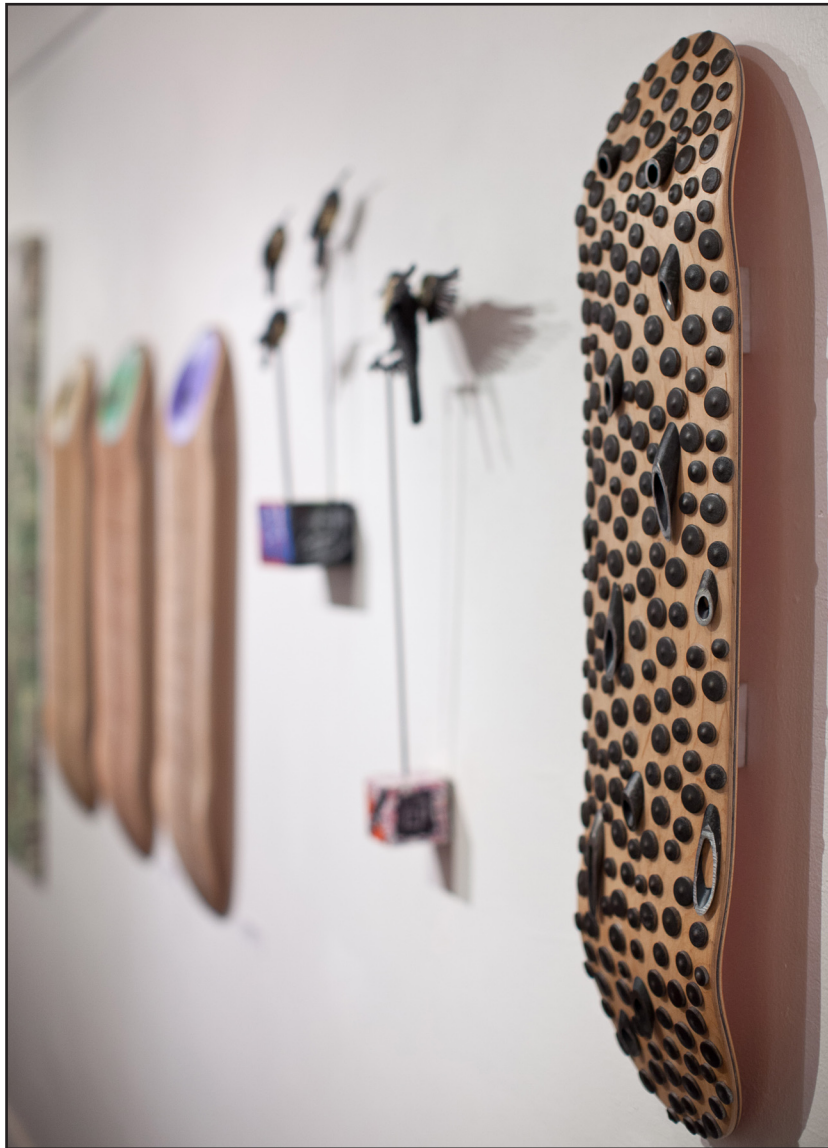


MEGADECK





October 26, 2009

For Immediate Release:
Contact Information: Pat Braja, Deputy Director;
914.730.2333 ext. 40

**PARAMOUNT CENTER FOR THE ARTS
UPPER GALLERY EXHIBITION
“Megadeck”
A Look at 21 Different Area Artists Work...and One Unifying Concept**

**On Display: November 1 – December 7
Opening Reception: November 1, 2009, 1 – 3 pm**

Paramount Center for the Arts
1008 Brown Street, Peekskill, NY 10566
Info: 914.739.2333 or www.paramountcenter.org
Gallery Hours: M-F 10am-5pm, Sat 11am-2pm

“Megadeck,” showcases a wide variety of work by 21 young, emerging artists from the Peekskill area. The exhibit features the artists’ visions of urban life and includes sculpture, paintings, photographs and thematic installation. Each artist has one representative piece of their work in the show with a unique skateboard deck mounted beside it, creating a unifying relationship between the exhibiting artists. The individual skateboard decks, created specifically for this show explore the artists point of view on opulence, the disenfranchised, progress, poverty, the contrast between constant development and the dwindling natural world, and how these ideas penetrate broader society in the formats of graffiti, punk rock, tattoos, skateboarding and other forms of self-expression. The show was curated by Geoff Feder, a Peekskill sculptor.

Participating artists include: Andrew Barthelmese, Ross Chambers, Gwendolyn Chambers, Patrick Conlon, Geoff Feder, Laura Gillen, Peter Huynh, Jon Ledford, Carrie Levy, Alex Nowacki, Lise Prown, Laurie Reinauer, Shara Shisheboran, Niko Tavernise

About Paramount Center for the Arts

The Paramount Center for the Arts, a nonprofit cultural organization is dedicated to the presentation of diverse, high-quality programming in live performance, arts-in-education, visual arts, and film. Contributions from foundations, corporations, government and individuals enable the Paramount to provide accessible and affordable cultural programming to over 63,000 people each year. The Paramount Center for the Arts is housed in beautifully restored historic, landmark movie palace built by the renowned architects George and Charles Rapp in 1930. Today, the building is a designated Westchester County Landmark and listed on the State and National Historic Registries.

###



Peter Huynh



Jon Ledford



Patrick Conlon



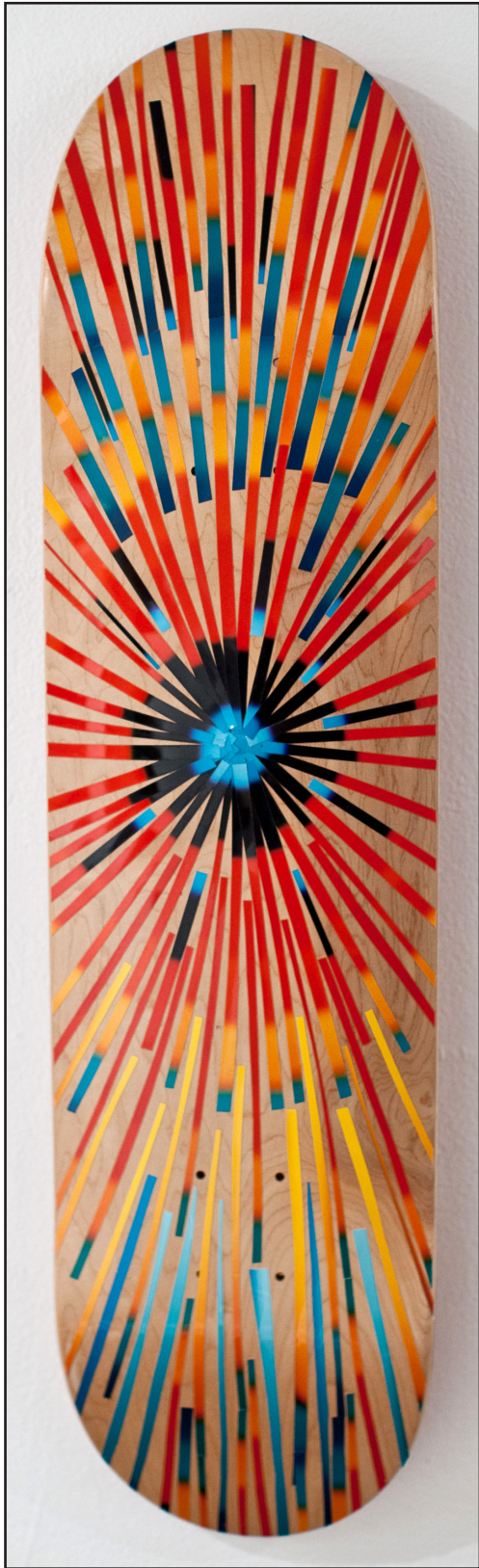
Andrew Barthelmes



Gwendolyn



Mike Ming



Alex Nowacki



Ross Chambers



Timothy Smith



Shara Shisheboren



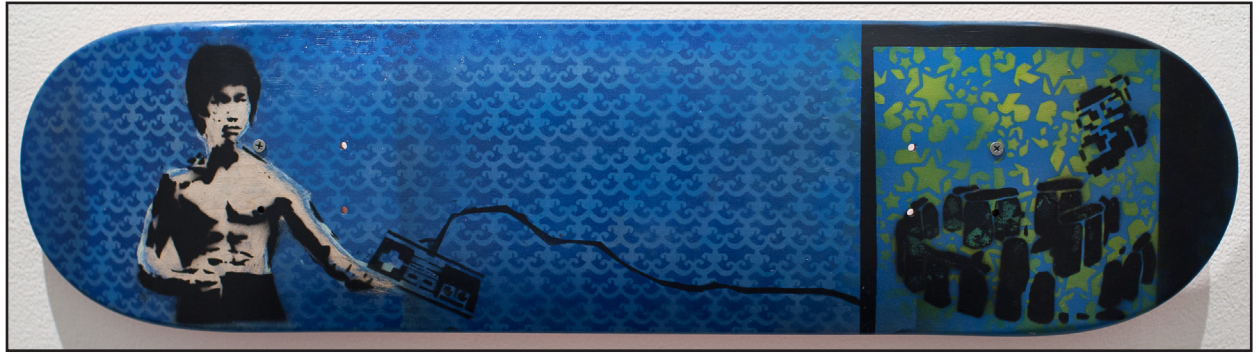
Niko Tavernise



Lowry Reinauer



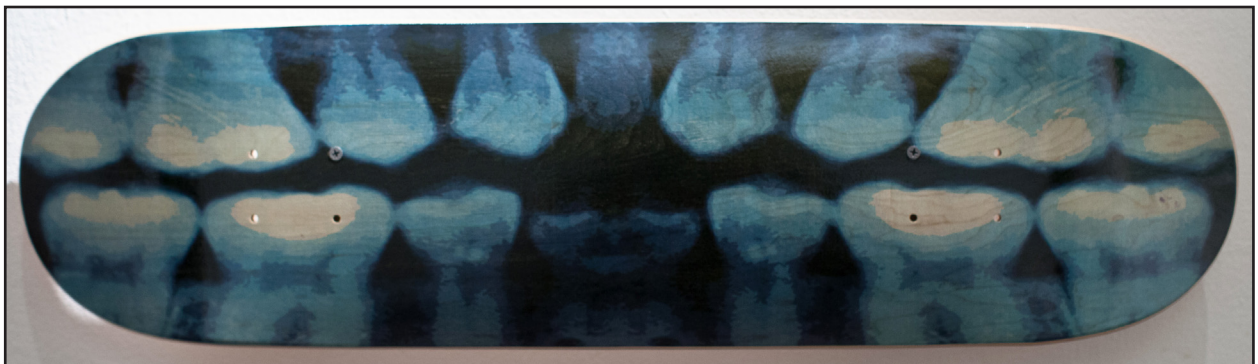
Maghan Oroszi



Robart



Ezra Picard



Matt Arnold



Lise Prown and Curt Belshe



Laura G. Gillen



Timothy Smith



Geoff Feder



Photos by Niko Tavernise

Skateboard decks star at the Paramount
Noth County News - 11-12-09
By Gennifer Birnbach

Co-curator, Geoff Feder's "City Pigeon Bench" is on display at the Paramount Center for the Performing Arts through December.

PEEKSKILL — Megadeck, a visual arts exhibit of 20 emerging artists, is on display now through early December at the Paramount Center for Performing Arts.

Geoff Feder and Tim Smith, co-curators, brainstormed the pairings of paintings, sculptures and photographs with complementary skateboard decks, specifically for the theater's narrow exhibit hall.

"I went to two shows at the Paramount: The first being an art exhibit that didn't deliver what I had expected, but the second was the pottery show 'Fired Up' and it was amazing to look down the narrow hallway and see depth," Feder said. "I loved how the pottery pushed off from the wall and thought it really activated the space."

With that in mind, Feder and Smith reached out to young artists in the Peekskill community and signed 15 artists on within two days.

"I was able to find artists so quickly because there are so many young ones not being represented," Feder said.

The showcase brings the artists' visions of urban life, as expressed through painted skateboard decks, accompanied by sculptures, paintings, photographs and thematic installation.

Each artist's piece was paired with a skateboard deck mounted beside it to create a unifying relationship between the exhibiting artists' diverse point-of-views.

The themes, as described by Feder, are of opulence, the disenfranchised, progress, poverty, the contrast between constant development and the dwindling natural world, as well as how these ideas penetrate broader society in the formats of graffiti, punk rock, tattoos, skateboarding and other forms of self-expression.

"I didn't want it to be cliché street art and really wanted the artists to stretch past their comfort zone," Feder said. "Some were nervous but they made it their own."

The skateboard decks were introduced as a way to pull together the variety of styles and mediums used by each artist. Unlike a flat canvas, the decks have multiple sides to cover. The exhibit features collaged decks, carved decks and painted decks, to name a few.

Feder, a sculptor, contributed pigeon sculptors, a painted deck and a bench he carved from driftwood found in the Hudson River in Peekskill.

"I grew up in the city and wanted to include things found in New York in my piece, including wood I removed from the Hudson River," Feder said.

He has been a sculptor for 17 years and said this is the best thing he has ever been involved in.

"There isn't one bad piece of work in there, and it all looks terrific together," Feder said. "Everyone was super proud of what they had done."