



[Art&Seek Blog](#) for North Texas and beyond

Look Ma, No Hands: William Lamson at Marty Walker Gallery

Posted on November 3rd, 2009 by [Gail Sachson](#)



Photo: Marty Walker Gallery

Guest blogger Gail Sachson owns Ask Me about Art, offering lectures, tours and program planning. She is Vice-Chair of the Cultural Affairs Commission and a member of the Public Art Committee.

Just as we have personal and unique rhythms in our individual walks, writings and words, nature has its rhythms as well. Brooklyn performance artist [William Lamson](#), with a smile, the excitement of a child and the determination of a scientist, has documented nature's beating heart on a trip to South America. The result is the [art now on exhibit](#) at [Marty Walker Gallery](#).

I imagine that Lamson smiled during the entire project. He must have envisioned us, his future audience, smiling also. He might have said on a dare to us, "What if I could make beautiful drawings without actually touching the paper?" We would say "Show us!" And he did.

Eleven automatic drawings, created not by his hand but by contraptions he devised, reveal Lamson's engineering feats. But, like any performance artist, he doesn't leave the scene entirely. There are two videos with undoctored sound, which were edited down from a few hours of drawing to a few minutes. They mesmerize the viewer, like a magician explaining his tricks.

How DOES he do it? The elegant marks of the "Sea Drawings" are produced on paper by a make-shift machine Lamson made with a pencil, strings, a tin can and water bottles. When the tides splash against the rocks, the machine is activated and the result, untouched by the artist, is on the wall at the gallery. (Check out the video below to see how it works.) The artist wants us to smile, to be amazed, to appreciate the idea, the effort, the scene and, of course, the art. And yes ... to applaud. After all, it's a performance.

Dallas Art News

[William Lamson: Automatic at Marty Walker Gallery](#)

Posted Tuesday, October 27, 2009

William Lamson: Automatic
Marty Walker Gallery
October 17 - November 14, 2009

You may never expect to stand before a gallery wall and critique works created by a small tree or ceiling fan, but at William Lamson's exhibition *Automatic* at [Marty Walker Gallery](#) you will do just that. During his travels to South America, the Brooklyn based artist has harnessed the powers of his surroundings to create a series of delicate and unusual drawings.



Tree Drawings (in progress) by William Lamson

Lamson's brilliantly simple drawing machines are documented in several short video pieces that are also on view in the gallery. In one video a kite flies randomly in a windy sky. The power of the kite moves a marker taped to a water bottle, making marks on the paper below. What might seem facile when described in physical terms is in reality fascinating. You are watching the wind draw a picture. The result is an innovative work created with materials as plain as string, plastic water bottles, pencils and a natural force. The accessibility of these materials and simplicity of the machines bring a sense of wonder to the actual works. I have to admit that I wanted to run home and tie markers to anything that moved.

The drawings (especially the graphite works) are extremely light and invite closer viewing. Hundreds of marks—some wild, some uniform—form a cloud of repetition on the surface of the paper. The overall quietness of Lamson's drawings seem to echo the quietness of nature.

The marks created by the tree drawing machine start to look like weathered bark. Though the machine is entirely synthetic, the drawing takes on a truly organic quality. These connections may be only in the mind of the viewer but are evidence of a desire to analyze the marks that we know to be random, or automatic. Though the drawings generate little to no interest on their own, ultimately their charm relies on the viewer seeing the actual machines in the video documentation.

The drawings alone mark a big departure from Lamson's earlier photography and video work, but after seeing the machines in action there appears a definite common thread of curiosity and invention. The "automatic" nature of the work might bring up the perennial question "is it art?" for some, but overall its merits are clear and captivating. Whether you enjoy the drawings or not, you will leave *Automatic* with a wider view of what is possible with a little common material and uncommon ingenuity.

William Lamson: Automatic is on view at Marty Walker Gallery through November 14, 2009.

About Kasten Searles

Kasten Searles is a graduate of The Art Institute of Boston at Lesley University and is currently a graduate student at the University of Dallas. Kasten is an active painter with a background in design. You can see her work online at www.studiokasten.com or follow her on Twitter at twitter.com/kasten.

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Event Information



William Lamson: Automatic
Marty Walker Gallery
October 17 - November 14, 2009

You can know that Lamson's work owes an enormous debt to William Wegman, and you'll still stand transfixed by his videos. The humor and inventiveness of the scenarios is matched by the sense of existential bewilderment. Lamson does the human predicament, with a light touch.



William Lamson: Automatic
Windy, 100% Chance of Art

By Merritt Martin, 10.2009



Lamson's "Kite Drawing Apparatus"

It doesn't take a meteorologist to understand just how powerful weather is. Especially given the recent seasonal shift, we all know how moods can be affected by the weather. And, historically speaking, a kite channeled weather for a rather electrifying discovery. But Brooklyn artist **William Lamson** has created a series of drawing contraptions (one of which involves a kite) that allows weather to directly affect his art. Harnessing the wind, Lamson allows the weather to--literally--use his apparatuses as nature's dictation devices. He's videotaped this process and exhibits the footage as well as the subsequent drawings in his second solo exhibition at Marty Walker Gallery, **Automatic**. See what conclusions you can draw from the wind's drawings 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays through November 14 at 2135 Farrington St. Call 214-749-0066 or visit martywalkergallery.com.



William Lamson: Automatic at Marty Walker Gallery

Event: Museums and Galleries

PRINT EMAIL WRITE A REVIEW

We like Brooklyn artist William Lamson. Painting a picture with acrylics on canvas was not good enough for this man. Not even close. Lamson went to South America and began using wind and water to power three low-tech drawing machines. He made these machines out of found objects like plastic bottles, string, and wood. The result? A series of abstract drawings you can view at the Marty Walker Gallery, along with videos of the process. Through Nov 14. Marty Walker Gallery, 2135 Farrington St. 214-749-0066. www.martywalkergallery.com.



Renegade Bus

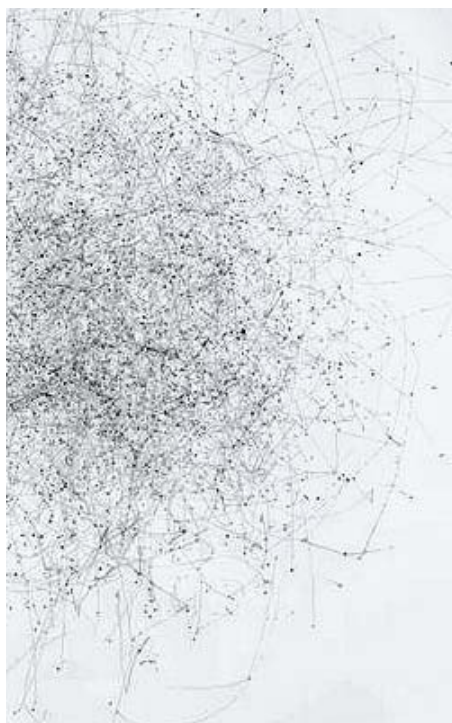
Culture and the Curious in Dallas, Texas

WILLIAM LAMSON *AUTOMATIC* – photo essay

William Lamson's show *Automatic* at [Marty Walker Gallery](http://www.martywalkergallery.com) through November 14.



WILLIAM LAMSON, *Kite Drawing*, Colonia Valdense, Uruguay, 2009
(L: *Automatic* -video still, R: *Automatic Kite Drawing* -marker on paper)



WILLIAM LAMSON, *Molino Drawing*, Colonia Valdense, Uruguay, 2009
(L: *Molino Drawing* .575 liters, Jan 31, 9-12p -detail, R: *Molino Drawing Apparatus*)



WILLIAM LAMSON, *Sea Drawings*, Coliumo, Chile, 2009
(installation depicting the transition from high tide to low tide)



WILLIAM LAMSON, *Automatic*, 2009
video still of *Sea Drawing Apparatus*

<http://renegadebusdallas.com/mid-century-neon/william-lamson-automatic/>



Art This Week Dot Com

We are a video podcast promoting the visual arts.

[Art This Week - Marty Walker Gallery - William Lamson – Automatic - November 3, 2009 - Ep. 22](#)



View the video podcast here: <http://artthisweek.com/?p=158>

This week we visit [Marty Walker Gallery](#) to see their latest exhibition, [William Lamson](#) Automatic. **And the News!**

Show notes:

Nancy Spero dies at 83.

[NYT article](#).

Her [Art:21](#) segment.

[Image](#).

Richard Rogers wins Stirling Prize for Maggie's Center.

[Richard Rogers](#).

[RIBA Awards](#).

[Guardian article](#).

[Image](#).

David Hockney uses iPhone app to create images.

[New York Review of Books](#)

[Image](#). [Image](#).

Barnes Foundation moving?

[Barnes Foundation](#)

[LA Times article](#). [NYT article](#). [Philadelphia Inquirer article](#).

[Venturi letter](#).

[Image](#). [Image](#).

Shepard Fairey admits to using AP image of Obama.

[NY Times article](#).

[Image](#).

November 3rd, 2009



Art&Seek Blog *for North Texas and beyond*

Tuesday Morning Roundup

Posted on November 17th, 2009

by [Stephen Becker](#)



EARTHLY CONCERNS: Brooklyn artist William Lamson's show "Automatic," which closed this weekend at [Marty Walker Gallery](#), earned praise for its simplicity and environmental consciousness. Lamson uses wind and other natural forces to power the tools that create his drawings. Whatever Mother Nature is in the mood to draw that day, that's what we get. [Earlier this month](#), Art&Seek guest blogger Gail Sachson was amazed by the ingenuity of the process. And now [nbcdfw.com](#) reporter Annie Potasznik delivers the above video that shows in further detail how Lamson works. View the video here:

<http://www.nbcdfw.com/news/green/Wind-Water-and-Artwork-Created-by-Nature--70209472.html>