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InLiquid at International House presents
David S. Kessler
Selected Portraits
March 12 – July 2, 2010



David Kessler, *World of Products*, short film. 6min 2009, video still

International House Video Lounge
3701 Chestnut Street, first floor, Philadelphia, PA
Opening reception: Wednesday, March 17, 6 – 8 pm

(Philadelphia, March, 2010) This spring **InLiquid** presents *Selected Portraits*, an exhibition of work by Philadelphia-based artist David S. Kessler. There will be a reception for the artist on from March 17, from 6 to 8 pm. *Selected Portraits* is a series of short video pieces, accompanied by ink drawings derived from video stills. Additional videos and drawings will be added to the installation during its run.

Straddling the lines between gallery art and documentary film, David S. Kessler has been exploring and manipulating the form of documentary film to create short works for a gallery context. While maintaining simple formal properties of traditional documentary film, Kessler's videos eschew background information, opinion, judgment, and usually-pertinent details such as names and faces in exchange for tone and character, allowing the work to remain ambiguous in its subject and message. Kessler's works function more as situational snapshots of humanity than as narrative depictions of specific places and events.

Selected Portraits represents Kessler's exploration in documentary portraits, beginning with *Bookmaking at Evangelical Manor* from 2006, where a group of anonymous elderly residents describe the things that keep boredom at bay as they craft their own scrapbooks. Other works include later episodes of Kessler's serialized project *Shadow World*, which documents encounters with strangers under the el track in Philadelphia's Kensington section, and *World of Products*, which portrays P'nina, a woman with a passion for selling catalogue items for the home, and her husband Joel, an amateur inventor.

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David S. Kessler received his BFA in painting from Montclair University in 2001. In addition to making short films, he continues to paint and is currently working on a large body of sculpted and cast silicone work. Kessler also work in special fx and puppetry and is CEO and director of the video production company, Studioscopic, specializing in videos for arts organizations and nonprofits.

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ABOUT INLIQUID

Founded in 1999, InLiquid is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit membership organization dedicated to expanding opportunities and exposure for visual artists while serving as a freely-accessible hub for art. By providing the public with immediate access to view the portfolios of over 280 artists via the internet, through community-based activities and exhibitions in a variety of venues, and through an extensive online body of timely art information—including gallery listings, articles, reviews, artist resources, links, and discussions—InLiquid brings to light the richness of our region’s art activity and broadens audiences for all forms of visual culture. www.inliquid.com