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through public events

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For Immediate Release:

## Melissa Kulig

### *My Other*

October 30 – November 24, 2012

Opening Reception:

Thursday November 1st, 6-8pm



*Wall Paper Border, Graphite on Paper, 11x13 inches, 2008*

SOHO20 Chelsea gallery presents *My Other* by Melissa Kulig, works from 2008 to the present. The exhibition will be on view October 30 through November 24, with an opening reception Thursday November 1<sup>st</sup> from 6-8pm.

Kulig's graphite drawings can be described as a grotesque manifestation of the rivalry between the natural and unnatural. It is humanity's endless struggle to hide and contain that which exists. In some ways however, Kulig wins this battle, not by conquering but by confronting. Her detailed graphite drawings depict the collective fears and fantasies of a culture that has spent hundreds of years veiling them. These, sometimes large, works, pull from Victorian imagery, including decorative pattern and vanitas motifs.

In *Pinhole*, a woman stands, arms in air, as parts of herself twist and writhe. Her long dress catapults over her head as if she is being sucked down from a vacuum. These depictions are at once autobiographical, archetypal, humorous, dark and prying. Her work conflates and exposes the demons of a demure culture so as to render her characters void of even the will to hide their ghastly bodies. Exposed breasts, nipples, phalluses, and other hidden genitalia can be found in Kulig's work, rendered to a startling degree. Her drawings simultaneously pull the viewer in, where discoveries are made, and repel him or her as if in fear. They are distorted self-portraits and Victorian-based friezes that expose what may be in all of us.

Melissa Kulig is a Waltham, MA based artist located just west of Boston. She and her loft are part of the Waltham Mills Artist Association. The group, begun in the 1970's, is very active in the local community. Her drawings have been juried into many galleries including the Limner Gallery in Hudson, NY, the Bromfield Gallery in Boston, the Agni Gallery in NY, and a solo exhibition at The Artist Foundation Gallery in South Boston. She received her MFA in Drawing in 2009 from The Art Institute of Boston, a school of Lesley University. After working under Anthony Apesos and Deb Todd Wheeler, she received an honorary scholarship from the faculty and students at her graduation. She is a member of the Women's Feminist Project and continues to teach art to children and adults as she's done for the past 10 years.

For more information please contact the gallery at [info@soho20gallery.com](mailto:info@soho20gallery.com) or 212.367.8994