

Survival School

If you visit the website of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists , a University of Chicago-based organization born in 1945 of participants in the Manhattan project with the self-stated purpose of informing the public about “threats to the survival and development of humanity from nuclear weapons, climate change, and emerging technologies in the life sciences,” you can follow a timeline of the Doomsday Clock – a metaphoric clock which illustrates how close the world might be to Midnight, or “catastrophic destruction.” Since the clock’s inception in 1947, the farthest we have been from the “apocalypse” is 17 minutes when in 1991 the Cold War had officially ended. On January 14 of this year, 2010 the bulletin announced we had gained a minute since 2007, with positive political shifts in the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty , and ambitious goals to limit carbon emissions at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen .

With 6 minutes ostensibly representing an imminent apocalyptic reality to our insulated Middle-American experience and numerous other rumors of threats to civilization, what interests us is the subject of preparedness – a

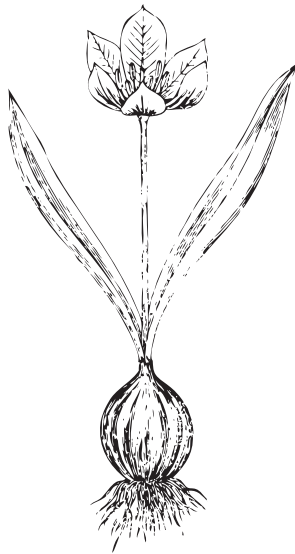
Special thanks to Trinity Christian College Art and Design Department, John Bakker, Abby Christiansen, Bridgett Earnshaw, Melissa Peterson, Emily VanHoff, Dayton Castleman and Sara Black.

HIDEOUS BEAST 2010

state of readiness. It is not surprising that fear is an incentive to prepare, but the difficulty lies in understanding the prevalence of this practice among seemingly disparate ideologies. Liberal arts students, NRA members, investment bankers, hurricane survivors, most world religions – all are bound by traditions and practices that attempt to insure a future world. The form these rituals take thoroughly shapes both the context in which we live and our future. To understand the present situation we must understand the formal and aesthetic qualities of preparation tactics. Mimicking Minimalism’s method of paring down form to implicate perception and the body we have created an installation and series of events that use the gallery as an existential framework for investigating preparedness. These experiments serve as creative interpretations of survivalist activities. They are attempts to understand how the character of preparation can structure future actions and how aesthetics can provide a flexible engagement with an unpredictable world.

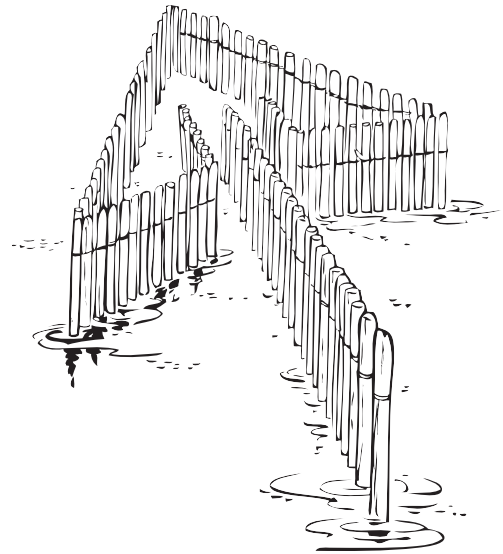
Trinity Christian College and the Department of Art and Design presents Hideous Beast Survival School January 31–February 25, 2010.

FEB. 17 | OBSERVATIONAL DRAWING
SEERVELD GALLERY, 5-7PM



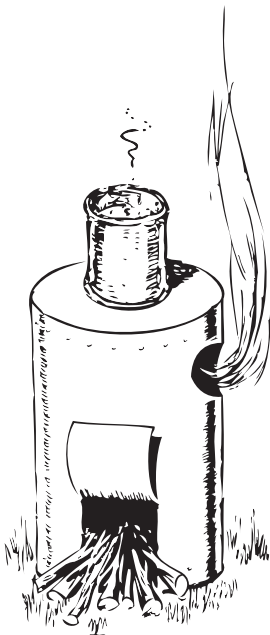
A plant drawing and recognition workshop. Drawing materials will be provided. Bring found vegetation to add to the collection.

FEB. 24 | CAMP CRAFTS
SEERVELD GALLERY, 5-7PM



A workshop dedicated to making traps, shelters and knots. Materials will be provided but please bring some to share.

FEB. 17 & 24



Camp food will be provided at both workshops. Bring your favorite camp food and a survival story to share.

FEB. 25

SURVIVAL SCHOOL

ARTIST SLIDE LECTURE, 6PM
ARCC LOBBY

RECEPTION, 7PM
SEERVELD GALLERY

For more info please visit -
<http://hideousbeast.com>