



*Game Hen*, mixed media, (collaboration), 9" x 7" x 7" 2009

## **Karen Chu & Jay Merryweather**

### ***Where the Edges Meet***

may 23 – june 20, 2009

reception: saturday, may 23, 7–10 pm

### ***Where the Edges Meet***

L2kontemporary presents *Where the Edges Meet*, a two person exhibition from Karen Chu and Jay Merryweather, 2009 graduates from Claremont Graduate University. Please join us for a reception for the artists on May 23, with the exhibition continuing through June 20, 2009.

Karen Chu's mixed media collages and ceramic sculptures reengage the act of looking at everyday images in a humorous and lighthearted manner. Chu extracts images of recognizable objects and animals from their original context, recasts and rearranges them, and thus creates fresh contexts. These new relationships and scenarios in turn encourage new narratives. A blue-footed bird perches on a swinging designer couch and stares longingly at a pink sprinkled donut and in other collages real animals hide amongst children's stuffed animals. This playfulness and amalgamation of imagery and forms translate directly into her sculptural work, as she essentially collages in the third dimension by bringing unlikely combinations together. Who would expect to see three larger-than-life sized chicken feet sticking out of a bluish tinted bun? Through her work, Chu redefines the act of seeing on her terms, and encourages the viewer to take a peak through windows in order to have a glimpse of the world as she views it.

Jay Merryweather's work also investigates images of recognizable objects that have been pulled from their original context and reconfigures them into his own form of hybrid object. He examines both the formal and ideological traditions of the art world and its relationship to the subjective tolerance of a society that has gone global. Merryweather invents hybrid figures in order to extract stereotypes within his paintings, sculptures and installations. Through the amalgamation of painted figures, Merryweather's subjects transverse the flow of identity. Utilizing public subjects, portraits, and social observations he creates a performative space in his work. They invite the viewer to examine the highly crafted pieces with a sensitive awareness. His sources are fused together in interesting and unique ways in order to create images which are one of a kind composite narrative.