

# BRIDGETTE MAYER GALLERY



## July First Friday Picks

By PW Staff  
June 29, 2011

### Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts

Most art scuffles with its city of origin, but the work in "Urbanism," curated by PAFA's Julien Robson, zooms out farther than its immediate surroundings to spin more general narratives of the urban fabric.



A mere peek at Philadelphia-based artist Ben Peterson's exquisitely detailed ink and graphite drawings betrays their rain check on reality. For starters, it's just too damn clean; never did Philly ever boast a lawn so beatifically free of litter as Peterson's manicured plots (although fastidious execution aside, some of his caved-in roofs and roving foliage recall a certain city's pandemic of vacant lots). Meanwhile, artist duo the Dufala Brothers grind a bit more

grit into the gravy without sacrificing the absurd. Their piece for the uniquely gigantic Fisher Brooks Gallery at PAFA takes the form of a 40-foot Dumpster upholstered on the interior, like a roach with a soft core. Not one to pass up the opportunity for working large scale, Amy Walsh also takes full advantage of the 7,000-square-foot gallery space with a 50-by-20-foot site-specific installation. Cobbled together with cardboard and wood, the colossal structure is really a foil for the miniature scenes visible through numerous spy holes—a sanitized nod to Philadelphia's most famous peep-hole piece: Marcel Duchamp's naughty "Etant Donnés," at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Satisfying our desire to pry into the interiors of private dwellings, Walsh's secret scenes play with perspective in a trompe l'oeil effect that disorients the viewer in an uncanny tour de force. **Abstracting even further from the normal appearance of objects, Arden Bendler Browning's large-scale paintings combine the speed of urban life with a jarring collision of perspectives that burst across the field of vision like a pleasurable sucker punch.** *(Katherine Rochester)*

10am–5pm. Through Sept. 4. Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Fisher Brooks Gallery, Samuel M. V. Hamilton Building, first floor, 118 N. Broad St. 215.972.7625. [pafa.org](http://pafa.org)

Read more: <http://www.philadelphiaweekly.com/arts-and-culture/art/July-First-Friday-Picks06292011-124723024.html#ixzz1QhSrT9pR>

709 Walnut Street 1st Floor Philadelphia PA 19106 tel 215 413 8893 fax 215 413 2283  
email [bmayer@bridgettemayergallery.com](mailto:bmayer@bridgettemayergallery.com) [www.bridgettemayergallery.com](http://www.bridgettemayergallery.com)