

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**OPTIMISTS**

Work by susan c. dessel

October 22 - November 3, 2010

Reception October 26, 2010, 6-8:30pm

chashama 266 Window Space (266 West 37<sup>th</sup> St. near 8<sup>th</sup> Ave.)



chashama 266 is pleased to present ***OPTIMISTS***, an installation by L.I.C. artist Susan C. Dessel. Dessel's work transports gallery visitors to a hospital corridor, creating an environment in which to consider health care from the perspective of patient, family member, or simply concerned citizen. The artist's life-sized figures play with the tension between the reality of and our expectations about health care.

Dessel's choice of media: elastic bandages customarily used for support and hospital gowns, originally intended to protect against contamination but oftentimes almost ceremonial, feel at home in the heavily foot-trafficked midtown-Manhattan Garment District of New York City.

In this setting and with the timeliness of this pre-election period the artist invites gallery visitors to take a moment to let their Senators and Representatives know where they stand on The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act - the healthcare reform legislation signed into law by President Obama 23 March 2010. With the current discussion circling around SUPPORT or REPEAL the convenience to individuals of taking a stand on-the-spot is set to increase the count of voices that might not otherwise be heard.

***OPTIMISTS*** reflects the inadequacies of our healthcare system and at the same time suggests the enduring hopefulness of individuals. Installed in the chashama 266 storefront, Dessel's work illustrates how something right in front of us, even something initially discordant, easily blends into background noise as we go about our lives without stopping to consider how each of our own actions or inaction impact societal conditions.

Funding for this exhibit has been made possible by the Puffin Foundation.

Since 1995 chashama has championed the movement to repurpose vacant properties, recycling empty real estate into temporary artist spaces to invigorate communities. For more information visit [www.chashama.org](http://www.chashama.org)

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