

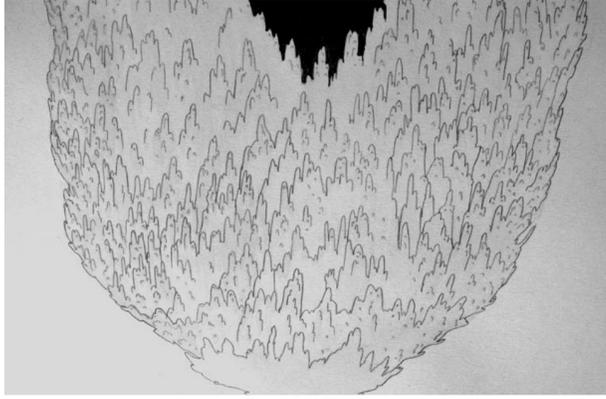
**Emily Link** was born in Syracuse, NY, and grew up north of Pittsburgh, PA. Since being transplanted to Texas, she has worked to build an enriched cultural past in an environment that exists only for his future. In 2008 she received her B.F.A. from the University of Houston. Link has exhibited work at Good Children Gallery in New Orleans, Louisiana, galleryHOMELAND in Portland, Oregon, Garfo Art Center in Salt Lake City, Utah, BOX 13 Artspace and The Joanna in Houston, Texas. She is currently based in Houston, Texas.



**Emergency Room is generously supported by Rice Public Art, the Dean of the School of Humanities, and the Department of Visual and Dramatic Arts.**

Above  
*Igna's Fatuus (detail)*  
2011, Gouache, ink and graphite on paper

Opposite  
*(detail from TUMULUS)*  
2012, Mixed media



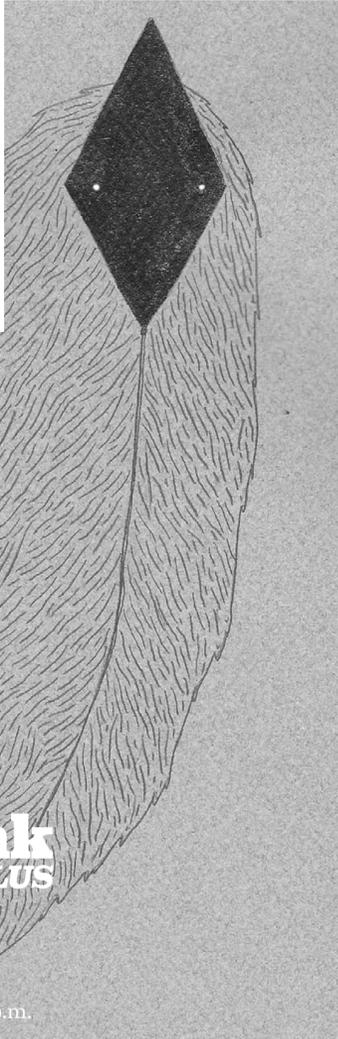
**The Emergency Room** is the latest venture by the Department of Visual and Dramatic Arts. This new exhibition space is aimed at better serving the Houston arts community and the arts on the Rice University campus. Visiting emerging artists will develop new exhibitions, give public lectures, and interact with Rice studio arts students. Emerging artists are an underserved population within the Houston region, and the Emergency Room is an attempt to correct this by presenting the highest quality exhibitions within the context of a serious academic program. *Gallery hours are Thursday, 5-9 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., and by appointment. Closed on university holidays.*

# Emily Link TUMULUS

On view April 19–May 13, 2012  
Lecture on April 12 at 6 p.m.  
Reception on April 19 at 8:30 p.m.



**emergency room**



## IN ILLO TEMPORE

This Latin phrase, familiar to those who attend Catholic Mass, is often translated as “Once upon a time...” but translates literally as “in that time”—that “other” time, that time outside of time—the olden days, those golden days—the time of myths and fairy tales, the pre-human era of gods and Titans, Amun-Ra and the Spider Woman, and epic heroes like Gilgamesh, Beowulf, Lancelot, and the Trickster coyote. But space is implied “in illo tempore” as well—the transcendental space of archetypes and Platonic ideals—and it’s a parallel space, unfolding concurrently, an alternate universe reflecting our own present moment, though in a dimension imperceptible to our limited, fallible human sensory capabilities. This is the space that Emily Link’s work offers viewers a peephole to peer through. This is you. This is your journey--on one level.

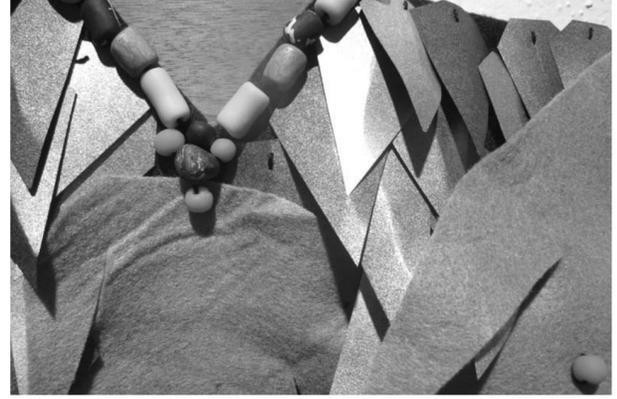
On another level, the grotesque, phantasmagoric figures populating Link’s current series are on a journey of their own. These “soft sculptures,” which she thinks of more as 3D drawings made of fabric, are nomads who have fled their latest encampment to escape some unknown danger--perhaps a plague or a predator. They have been forced to abandon the old and the infirm, leaving three remaining characters--a malicious young male; another male, a passive, archetypal Fool; and a female shamanic figure. Link’s fairy tale has been unfolding over the past two years (as if time matters in illo tempore) beginning at galleryHOMELAND in Portland, OR, before moving on to Salt Lake City’s GARFO Art Center. From there, her nomads moved on to Houston’s BOX 13 ArtSpace and then to the University Galleries at Texas State University in

San Marcos. Each stop depicted one tableau, one moment in their ongoing voyage, which brings us to their next stop, here, at the Emergency Room.

Here viewers see first a Nordic funeral mound--the malicious young male has murdered the shamanic female character. Next, we see her risen from the ashes of the funeral pyre in a transitional Bardo/Purgatory phase, a demonic, decapitated head inspired by folkloric Japanese gaki --ghost-like beings forced to wander the earth consumed by extreme hunger and thirst. Finally, she is reborn, androgynous and indifferent, neither malicious nor particularly compassionate. Where she will go next, whether she will rejoin her tribesmen--the one who murdered her and the one who failed to protect her--remains to be seen.

Emily Link was born in Syracuse, NY, in 1985 and raised in rural Pennsylvania, surrounded by wilderness and Native American, colonial, and Civil War histories. Her current series of “3D drawing” soft-sculpture tableaus are directly inspired by the dioramas she saw as a child at the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh, and represent her attempt to bring that sense of mythical lore to this ever-shifting, disposable strip mall landscape which “exists only for the future.” She received her BFA from the University of Houston in 2008 and currently works as community relations coordinator at Houston’s Lawndale Art Center.

**Harbeer Sandhu**  
Harbeer Sandhu is a fiction writer, poet, and lyrical essayist who lives in Houston.



Above  
*Force of Three (detail)*  
2011, Mixed media

Title Page  
*Psychopomp*  
2012, Gouache, ink and graphite on paper

Opposite  
*Fall/Rise of the Witchnatrix (detail)*  
2011, Mixed media

