For Immediate Release:

Opening Reception: Thursday, October 6 | 4–6 PM.

**Pas de Deux and Variation**

A Solo Exhibition by Joel Parsons

Gallery X | 280 South Columbus Drive room 113
October 6–27, 2011

*Pas de Deux and Variation* grew out of Joel Parsons’ conflicted relationship with classical ballet and the ideal it valorizes. In an attempt to navigate the territory between his simultaneous sentiment attachment and critical remove, Parsons refracts choreography created by his partner through multiple processes, each of which is grounded in his own self-taught ballet practice. Through a combination of sculpture, performance, and photography he extends himself, awkwardly but earnestly, into the opaque parts of another person, and in the process creates a space between the actual and the ideal, seduction and alienation, failure and success.

Through a series of unannounced performances of the choreography in the space, Parsons’ dance gestures work to create a permanent stage within the space that viewers are welcome experience. Unpredictable and irregularly scheduled, the traces of Parsons’ performances are just as palpable in their absence as in their presence.

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GALLERY X | 312.857.7140
280 South Columbus Drive, Room 113, Chicago, IL 60603
Tuesday- Friday: 11:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. | Saturday: 10:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Alternate times by appointment.

SUGs MAIN OFFICE | 312.629.6860
36 S. Wabash Ave., Suite 1405
Fax | 312.629.6864

Founded in 1994, the Student Union Galleries (SUGs) at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) has established itself as a staple of SAIC’s student life—a place where student artists and curators can challenge their work in a public setting. SUGs is run by five student directors under the guidance of faculty advisor, Michael x. Ryan. Producing between 9 and 12 exhibitions of student work each year, SUGs facilitates programs that provide a more open exchange for students across disciplines and departments, as well as with vital members of Chicago’s art community. Many of SUGs alumni, both directors and exhibiting artists, have made substantial contributions to the arts in Chicago, and have built valuable careers in the arts both nationally and internationally.