

# parlour

**Golden Tales**  
June 26 – 27, 2010

Parlour No. 16, *Golden Tales*, explores the invented worlds of Lara Allen, Megha Gupta, Faten Kanaan, Sandra Mack-Valencia and Natalia Yovane. Through their use of visionary and mythical iconography as well as a broad range of media, each artist develops their own unique mythology. In this way, *Golden Tales* strives to explore how, even today, we desire to be rooted in a mythical sensibility. These artists use constructed and remembered mythical icons, fictional and nonfictional fragments of history, in order to develop new realities. *Golden Tales* is hosted by Fawad Khan in his Brooklyn apartment.

**Lara Allen's** performances incorporate ragtime and other popular American musical forms from the turn of the century. Using lyrical satire Lara expresses and contemplates the complexities of distant communities merging into one culture. By personifying a historical experience, Lara captures the early American imagination, and is in this way able to convey both oblique and direct reflections of contemporary experiences. By acknowledging and exploring the relationship between internal and external realities, **Megha Gupta's** featured works create a gateway, a loophole into a shared space, where multiple emotions and memories coincide and diverge. By merging these opposing sensations together, Megha presents the viewer with a tumultuous yet poetic landscape. With her artistic practice, **Faten Kanaan** creates tangible memoirs in an ongoing narrative based on fictional characters and places. The specific sculptures for *Golden Tales* are part of Chapter 3: The Bellcaster, which explores the importance of man symbiotic relationship with materials. By reforming found objects, Faten taps into the historical and mythical powers of objects, echoing the transformative power of alchemy. In her works for *Golden Tales*, **Sandra Mack-Valencia** looks to archetypal Carnival attractions and creates new ones in order to poke fun at the pressures of womanhood and the idea of the "perfect wife". Her characters, which range from a Man-eater to Siamese twins, use irony to expose certain societal myths as impossible ideals. **Natalia Yovane's** works on paper, from the series *Constellations*, are based on symbols and hieroglyphics created from an amalgamation of real experiences and fabricated truths. Her pieces specifically reference her Chilean roots, using ancient iconography to explore how the old world was once interpreted, how she renders Chile today. In this way, Natalia reveals how mythology captures history and poetry in the same delicate net.

**Lara Allen** received her MFA from Yale in 2005. Now residing in Brooklyn, she paints and performs. Recent performances include the Museo de Bellas Artes Cuba for the Havana Biennial, the Queens Museum and SFMOMA. **Faten Kanaan**, born in Germany, originally Palestinian-Jordanian, is an artist and musician living in Brooklyn. She graduated with an MFA from Parsons the New School of design in 2006. **Megha Gupta** received her BFA in painting from Yale. Her work has been included in various group shows and her first solo show opened last week at No-Coast Gallery in Chicago. She currently lives and works in Brooklyn. **Natalia Yovane**, originally from Santiago, Chile, received her MFA from the School of Visual Arts this spring. Her work has been exhibited in Miami And New York, including in a previous Parlour, *Open Season* in October 2009. **Sandra Mack-Valencia** grew up in Colombia, she received her BFA from the Universidad de Antioquia in 2000. She finished her MFA at Hunter College in 2007. Sandra's work has been exhibited since 1999 in museums and institutions in Colombia, New York, and Japan.

*Golden Tales* opens Saturday, June 26, 2010 from 7-10 PM, and can be viewed on Sunday, June 27, 2010 from 12 - 4 PM by appointment only. For more information or to make an appointment, please contact Leslie or Ciara at [parlourinfo@gmail.com](mailto:parlourinfo@gmail.com) or visit [www.parlourdoor.com](http://www.parlourdoor.com).

**Parlour** is a nomadic exhibition space started in 2008 that presents weekend-long exhibitions in people's homes. Its impetus is to showcase the work of contemporary artists in a unique and dynamic setting. Though primarily based in New York City, this year Parlour is expanding its programming to include shows in different cities throughout the country and around the world.

directors  
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