

## **Pucker Up**

Artist Zachary Goldman's sculptural environments promote up close and personal interactions.

by Cara Ober, July 24, 2012



The Kissing Glass, 2012. Wood, screws, glass, Windex, squeegees, shop towels, video projection of performance

Recent MICA graduate **Zachary Goldman** admits, "I appreciate art that is honest, funny, beautiful, charming, and pathetic, and I hope my work achieves some of these qualities that reflect the human condition." Goldman uses his own life as a starting point for performances, sculptures, videos, drawing, painting, and writing. "Even if it is not immediately apparent, there is always a story behind each piece and a connection to my life," says Goldman. "I often find myself returning to themes of intimacy and self reflection. The reason I make art is because I want to share my observations of the world with other people." Goldman's recent sculpture and performance piece, "The Kissing Glass," was featured in the Academy, 2012 Exhibit at Conner Contemporary Art in

Washington, D.C. The sculpture is a handmade kissing booth with a pane of glass to separate its participants, as well as a squeegee and antibacterial cleaner to disinfect it in between smooches.

Goldman originally attended the College of Creative Studies at UC Santa Barbara for two years before going to MICA to complete his studies. After residing in Bolton Hill for the past two years, Goldman has recently moved back to Santa Barbara. "Living in Baltimore gave me perspective of what the world can be like outside of the laid back California lifestyle," says Goldman. "Hanging out on rooftops of rowhouses, going to an art school in Baltimore, and conversations with local Baltimoreans all have made their way into my work at various points in time. It's impossible for me not to integrate my surroundings into my work."