

LISA CONRAD

November 30 - December 21, 2011

Artist Reception: Thursday, December 8th, 2011 from 4:00 - 6:00 pm.

Nancy Dryfoos Gallery



Above: Lisa Conrad, *Row Homes I*, 2011, Mixed Media.

Homegrown

The clash between the urban environment and the natural world is an underlying theme in my recent work. The struggle to survive in this man-made environment is the catalyst behind my work. I am currently living in my seventeenth home, each containing memories of conflict and growth. The urban environment has been my landscape for the past five years, where new buildings juxtapose crumbling buildings. The American home is often associated with the *American Dream*, a refuge of comfort, yet chaos and stress permeate still within its walls. It is my feeling that the physical places we call home decay metaphorically as time swallows its memory. The sprouting weeds seen through cracked roofs serve as a symbol of regeneration as one drifts from home to home. The concrete, gas guzzling, city sometimes chokes the beauty out of the human spirit. The rooftop garden I once had was banished by the church below it, literally becoming Milton's *Paradise Lost*. Now weeds are the closest thing I have to the natural wilderness, or as Gerard Manley Hopkins might observe, "God's Grandeur".