

# Julian Montague – Black & White Project Space Proposal

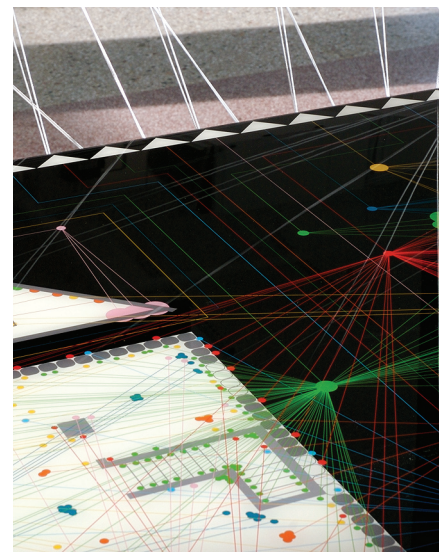
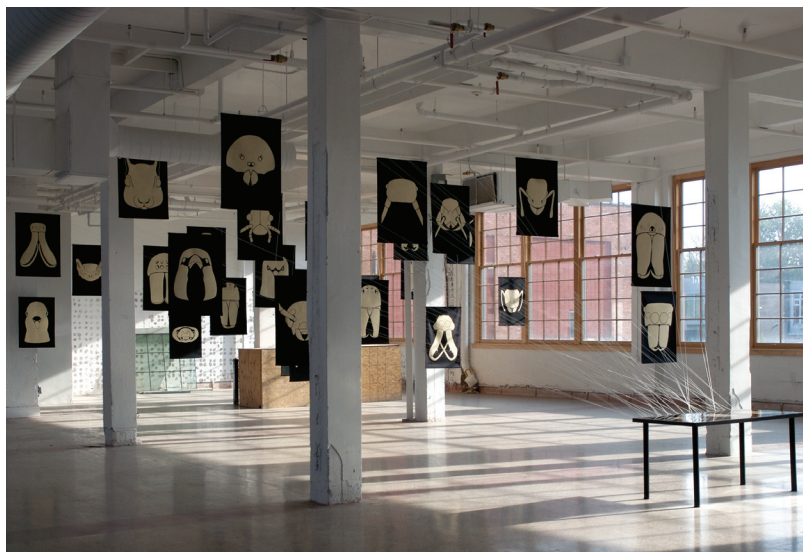
## **Project Statement**

For an abandoned house, the process of decay is one in which interior spaces are physically and conceptually transformed into exterior spaces. The animals and insects that invade devolving architectural structures are key participants in this transition. In an inhabited home, the presence of these animals are a threat to the social and psychological frameworks that buttress us safely on the “inside.” In an abandoned house, the threat is carried out, and the domestic space is dismantled entirely. The *Decay Community* projects are the result of a series of investigations in which I collected and observed the non-human inhabitants of abandoned structures. The zones of occupation were mapped and large portrait banners of the small mammals, birds, insects, spiders, and other invertebrates were made from canvas and felt. The portraits serve to identify the animals as a community of beings that unwittingly—yet naturally—demolish human spaces.

## **Interior Installation**

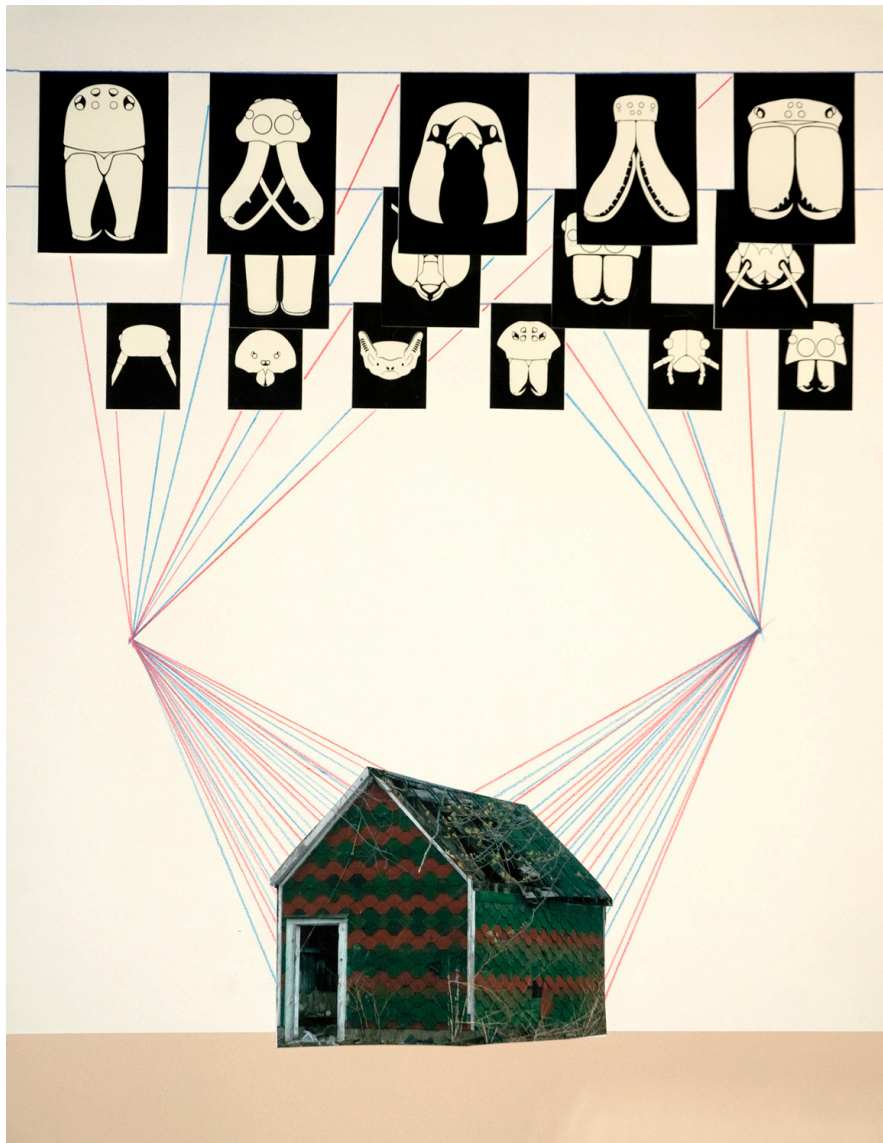
### **Abandoned House** / *Decay Community* / *Secondary Occupants Collected & Observed*

The centerpiece of the installation is the *Specimen Map Table*, which depicts the floor plan of a typical early 20<sup>th</sup> century single family house. Graphics on the plan locate the areas where various animals were found. Lines from the occupied areas run to the edge of the table where they continue as threads that go up through hooks in the ceiling. Hanging from the ends of the threads are fabric portrait banners that depict the animals associated with the occupied space. Although the lines on the specimen table and in the three dimensional space technically connect the proper portrait to the particular zone of occupation, they form such a dense web, that for the casual observer it is almost impossible to verify the connections. The opaque nature of the system suggests that we may not entirely understand the motivations of the author.



***Garden Shed / Decay Community / Secondary Occupants Collected & Observed***

The installation I am proposing for the outdoor space will apply the methodologies of the interior installation to an actual decaying structure. Specifically, a garden shed in an advanced state of disrepair. The shed will be acquired in Upstate New York, partially disassembled, and reconstructed at the gallery. While the interior installation has lines of association leading from a floor plan to the portrait banners, in the outdoor space the lines originate directly from the interior and surface of the shed. The banners would be hung from tensioned wires, fixed between the two long walls of the outdoor space. The installation would record multiple occurrences of the particular species, on and in the shed, but there will only be one portrait for each species located. The multiple lines will converge at a fixture on the wall and from that point a single line will connect to the portrait. With hundreds of lines connected to the shed it will resemble an exploded diagram of an infestation.



*Study for Garden Shed / Decay Community*