

Press Release
Jackson Fine Art

LYLE OWERKO
The Boombox Project

June 24th 2011 Book Signing - Friday, 24 June 6-9 P.M.

A smart and provocative piece of cultural anthropology, **Lyle Owerko's *The Boombox Project***, on display at **Jackson Fine Art beginning June 24**, is a celebration of that quintessential big city accessory perched on shoulders or ornamenting front stoops, the icon of the punk, new wave and hip hops movements from the 1970s to the '80s. With his celebrated Abrams Image book of the same name *The Boombox Project: The Machines, the Music and the Urban Underground* (featuring a forward from filmmaker Spike Lee, who immortalized the boombox in 1989's *Do the Right Thing*) Owerko has brought the youth culture of the city streets into the gallery space. His work "venerates an audio technology that, to eyes accustomed to the iPod's futuristic smoothness, seems practically steampunk" according to *The New York Times*.

Owerko's captivatingly detailed photographs of the stylistic range of these "ghetto blasters" celebrate this distinctive American cultural touchstone. The boomboxes Owerko documents are drawn from the artist's extensive collection of the vintage jam boxes before they were downsized and rendered incongruous with current technological tastes from CDs to MP3s. But Owerko's photographs also offer a fascinating archive of the architecture of these music machines, not unlike Bernd and Hilla Becher's classic portraits of Germany's industrial architecture. "They're objects of desire and reverence" says Owerko.

A renowned New York City-based photographer, filmmaker and self-professed "pop-culture junkie," Owerko's editorial and fine art projects regularly take the globe-trotting artist to Africa, Tokyo, Los Angeles, Mongolia and Central America.

His heart-wrenching editorial photograph of the Sept. 11, 2001 attack on the World Trade Center appeared on the cover of *Time* magazine and was called one of the 40 most important magazine covers in the last 40 years by the American Society of Magazine Editors. His film credits include music videos for Rufus Wainwright and American Hi-Fi and commercial spots with Robert Redford for The Sundance Channel. His work has been featured in *Communication Arts* magazine, *The New York Times*, *The Village Voice*, *New York* magazine, *BlackBook* and on NPR. His journals have been included alongside those of director Mike Figgis and musician David Byrne in the 2005 Princeton Architectural Press book *Drawing From Life*.