

JAMES HARRIS GALLERY

309A THIRD AVENUE SOUTH, SEATTLE, WA 98104
tel: 206.903.6220 fax: 206.903-6226 email: mail@jamesharrisgallery.com

Press Release



Rashid Johnson *Dark Matters*

July 12 - August 25, 2007

Opening Reception:
Thu July 12th 6pm - 8pm

James Harris Gallery is pleased to present *Dark Matters*, a new body of work by Rashid Johnson. Through a diverse range of media – photography, painting, sculpture, and video – Johnson brings forward a complex dialog imbedded in contemporary culture.

The title of the show, "Dark Matters," reflects Johnson's propensity to unpeel cultured layers of race, identity and sexuality. Evoking both the title of Cornell West's prominent book *Race Matters* and borrowing from the language of physics and astronomy, Johnson draws both visual and conceptual parallels between the two. With the insertion of the physicist's concept of dark matter into discourse on race, Johnson hopes to point out how societal norms and expectations are impalpably created and disseminated within the dominant frame of cultural production.

Under the banner of this title, the individual works create a multifaceted exploration of these issues. A tightly cropped but large-scale portrait of the famous African-American physicist Neil deGrasse Tyson hangs opposite to a photograph of an anonymous nude white woman. Both photographs connect contemporary issues of identity with dominant art historical conventions, namely portraiture and the female nude. In addition to these two images, Johnson has constructed several pieces that literally reflect the image of the viewer, rendering his/her identity as an integral part of the show. Across one of these mirrored works Johnson has written the words "dark matter." This conceptual and discursive unpeeling of contemporary identity permeates all of the work. As we confront our own image, unseen dimensions of our own layered identities are brought to fore.

Rashid Johnson is currently at work on solo projects for the 404 arte contemporanea in Naples, Italy, and for the moniquemeloche gallery in Chicago. His work is included in collections of the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Brooklyn Museum, and the Art Institute of Chicago.

Gallery hours are Wed. - Sat. 11:00am - 5:00pm & Tues. by appointment
Additional images are available upon request

JAMES HARRIS GALLERY

309A THIRD AVENUE SOUTH, SEATTLE, WA 98104
tel: 206.903.6220 fax: 206.903-6226 email: mail@jamesharrisgallery.com

JHG Project Space Press Release

Scott Foldesi

July 12 - August 25, 2007

Opening Reception:
Thu July 12th 6pm - 8pm



The JHG Project space is pleased to announce the debut of several new paintings by Scott Foldesi.

Working from photographs culled from various media sources or shot by the artist himself, Foldesi's paintings are eerily familiar renderings of contemporary life. The photo-based compositions are spare, masterfully capturing only the essential details of a given scene. Blank backgrounds become endless skies, while trees burst to life against concrete jungles. Deserted gas stations and abandoned drive-through parking lots become monuments to our times.

As a compositional element Foldesi often leaves large portions of the primed canvas unpainted. This creates an atmospheric distance that pervades our everyday lives. In all, this handling of paint exudes a calm confidence in which distorted picture planes and flattened out urban landscapes allow small signs of contemporary culture to mingle undefined. With these unconstrained compositions, Foldesi leaves the audience room to ascribe their own personal narratives to each canvas.

Scott Foldesi received his M.F.A. in painting and drawing from the University of Oregon. Living and working in Seattle, Foldesi's work has appeared locally at Seattle University's Hedreen Gallery, the Center on Contemporary Art, and is also included in the Microsoft collection.

Gallery hours are Wed. - Sat. 11:00am - 5:00pm & Tues. by appointment
Additional images are available upon request