

JAMES HARRIS GALLERY

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PRESS RELEASE

Roy McMakin

a bookcase, a sculpture, some drawings and a belt buckle

October 9 – November 15, 2003

Reception: Wednesday, October 8th, 6:00-8:00pm

The James Harris Gallery is pleased to announce an exhibition of new works by Seattle artist Roy McMakin. The exhibition will consist of sculpture and drawings that explore an engagement with domestic form. His artistic expression is not only formed through traditional painting and sculpture but also develops out of furniture and architecture. Thus he is able to imbue his work with humanness, beauty and humor.

Though his sculptures resemble useful/functional objects, McMakin transforms them leaving them open to many interpretations. In the exhibition, a chest of drawers floats off the floor while opposite, a sculpture of a lamp sinks into it. This playful give and take acts a vehicle for the artists to investigate formal concepts while distancing them from functionalism. In another work, the artist's uses language to change the perception of the object's function. A belt buckle, once an object of use, is transformed through a play on words into an object of pure aesthetic form. Because his works are aligned with human scale through their connection to domestic objects, a familiarity is invoked. In the exhibition, McMakin disrupts our notion of the domestic realm, defining and challenging a relationship between art-making and design. His inventive, eclectic approach not only stretches the boundaries of sculpture but also changes our perception of it.

Roy McMakin's work is also currently on view in the exhibition "Baja to Vancouver" at the Seattle Art Museum. A retrospective of his work organized by MOCA in Los Angeles will open at the Henry Art Gallery in February 2004 and is accompanied by a catalogue published by D.A.P.

Gallery hours are Wednesday through Saturday 11am – 5pm and by appointment.