

JAMES HARRIS GALLERY

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

Press Release

Katrina Moorhead

October 4 - November 10, 2007

Opening Reception: Thursday, October 4th 6pm - 8pm



Katrina Moorhead, *On or about December 1981*, 2005
Basswood, plywood, woodglue, zinc screws, and brass plated steel
screws
45" x 56" x 16" each

James Harris Gallery is pleased to present an exhibition of sculpture and works on paper by Katrina Moorhead. Dealing with themes of beauty, temporality, failure, and optimism, Moorhead's exhibition will be anchored by a pair of beautifully crafted car doors. Monumentalizing Jon DeLorean's controversial automobile factory in Belfast, the doors lay lifeless on the gallery floor. Constructed in the late 1970s and aided by British government incentives, the factory was designed at the height of political and religious tensions in the region. As such, the factory was designed with two entrances: one for Catholics and one for Protestants. Once inside, workers came together to assemble DeLorean's highly futuristic sports car but, despite the joining of efforts, the plant was soon closed partly due to a poor business model and partly due to fraud that had gone undetected by DeLorean's auditors. In the sculpture *On or about December 1981*, the artist lovingly recreates these gull wing doors out of wood. The abstracted forms and their gesture, akin to that of clipped wings, are a tribute to the workers and the events that loomed large while the artist was growing up in Northern Ireland.

Like Moorhead's sculpture, the drawings create a sense of emptiness and longing. In *The Issue of the Nineties*, Moorhead has rendered the first page of Dave Hickey's famous essay on beauty as if were an illustrated manuscript. The words float in white across the page elevating the contemporary text to a devotional object. In another work titled *You Sat Alone*, the artist paints a white curtain on blue paper. The curtain shows a beautiful landscape punctuated with repeating birds, ironically making the window covering a substitute for nature itself. As with all of the work in the show, the artist asks us to meditate on what is in front of us: whether it be a past, our present, or the future.

Katrina Moorhead is a young artist from Northern Ireland who represented her country in the last Venice Biennale. In 2005 she received the International Artists in Residence Award at the Artpace Foundation in San Antonio, TX.