

JAMES HARRIS GALLERY

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



Press Release

Bing Wright

November 15 - December 22, 2007

Opening Reception:

Thu Nov 15th 6pm - 8pm

James Harris Gallery is pleased to present an exhibition of photographs by Bing Wright. The show will combine two distinct bodies of work that each gracefully captures the artist's interest in the history of the medium. Through Wright's formal process of distilling very specific subject matter, both the "Rose" and "Silver Print" series are a response to how photography has evolved aesthetically and technologically. While the two series are disparate, in each there is an investigation of the formal aspects of the medium – with references to the silver print and other photographic processes – but also wrestles with photography's long history of manipulating reality into abstraction.

Initially inspired by Edward Steichen's "Heavy Roses, Voulangis, France 1914" photograph, Wright began taking pictures of roses in 1996. Though he abandoned the subject for almost ten years, Wright returned to it in 2005 creating large scale black and white photographs as reductive tableaus that now make-up the "Rose" series. Rendered in a seductive gray scale, roses are shown upended, decomposed or missing from their vase. The iconic beauty of the rose is curiously dissected in each composition and yet in Wright's playful investigation, they are refreshed. These are not clichéd portraits of beauty. Wright's roses are distinct, unveiling splendor in both life and decay.

The "Silver Print" pictures were similarly inspired by a historical precedent. Man Ray's "Dust Breeding (Elevage de Poussiere) 1920" informs the series wherein Wright randomly laid silver leaf on a sheet of paper, photographed it, and then generated a traditional silver print. Once developed, Wright then applies silver leaf directly onto the surface of the photograph. The resulting image laments, in a way, the end of an era in photography, the displacement of silver based photography for digital. Over time, these flecks of silver age and tarnish against the print, highlighting the developments made in the photographic industry. It, as with the "Rose" series, subtly comments on the binary relationship between loss and life.

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

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JHG Project Space Press Release

Roy McMakin

November 15 - December 22, 2007

Opening Reception:

Thu Nov 15th 6pm - 8pm

The James Harris Gallery is pleased to announce an exhibition of drawings by Roy McMakin in our project space. Informed not only by traditional painting and sculpture, McMakin's style also developed out of architectural and furniture design. Where the hand of the artist is removed from his sculptural and photographic works, in the drawings it is palpably present. His pencil drawings therefore become an intimate act of expression for the artist; a solitary moment in which his mark making is driven by something largely felt, or initiated by and guided within intuition.

In one series of drawings, strong hard lines perfectly draft cabinets and other pieces of furniture while McMakin's mark-making and lighthearted compositions instill the work with a personal touch. These are not simply studies of form but through chiascuro and line the artist gives these inanimate objects a sense of humanness, beauty and humor. A chest-of-drawers takes on a personality. In one composition, it lies on its back, in another the chest bounces on an implied ground. Through subtle animations McMakin is evocative and sweet without being cloy.

In other works, a dense overlaying of arabesques, squiggles and lines create a maelstrom of information in which domestic objects and shapes tangle together. At first glance the drawings appear as scribbled sketches. Then the complexities unfold. The compositions revealing a sense of pleasure in things found in our ordinary environs.

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