



DRABINSKY GALLERY

PRESS RELEASE

René Pierre Allain

Modifiers

April 5 – 26, 2008
Opening Saturday April 5
2:00 – 5:00 pm, artist in attendance

Modifiers, is the title of the new body of work by the Acadian artist **René Pierre Allain**, currently living and working in Brooklyn, New York.

René Pierre Allain is an artist whose restrained minimal paintings are more wall dependent constructions than any version of traditional painting. Pairing pigmented plaster and steel in surprising alliance, his constructed paintings have always achieved an elegant reductive presence that balanced the delicacy of the saturated plaster with the powerful impact of gun-blued industrial steel. The colours and patterns of military insignia and camouflage informed his palette as well as his distinctive iconography of stripes and geometry. His use of industrial steel, which started out as a framing device, was a powerful counterpoint to an elegant and refined minimalism. Steel provided the central action of the painting – sometimes hidden, sometimes invading the picture plane, sometimes providing a rich mysterious surface for the action of an acid etch or the touch of a flame.

Modifiers, marks a distinctive new body of work for René Pierre Allain. Gone is the austerity of his earlier work and in its place there exists a kind of gestural modernity with forms that slide and swell in sinuous moments of olive green, ochre and oxide red, like benevolent intruders on pristine ground.

Allain's signature steel construction is still powerfully present; sometimes as a frame, sometimes as intrinsic compositional elements, and sometimes flattened out to form integral steel panels, whose darkly mysterious surfaces carry the gun-blued traces of other ideas and earlier work.

The elegant tension between the opulent meanderings of the pigmented plaster and the austere undertones of the industrial steel is deeply satisfying.

For more information please contact My Johansson-Ganjoo
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PRESS RELEASE

Gary Taxali

Originals

April 5 – 26 2008
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2:00 – 5:00 pm, artist in attendance

And now for something completely different...we welcome Gary Taxali to the Project Room at Drabinsky Gallery. Drabinsky Gallery is pleased to present a discrete collection of Taxali's distinctive paintings on board, in a show called *Originals*.

Gary Taxali, an artist and professional illustrator, is a graduate of the Ontario College of Art (1991).

A fabulously successful illustrator with clients such as Rolling Stone, The New York Times, Esquire, and Bonny Doon Vineyard, Taxali immediately began showing in exhibitions and galleries throughout North America and Europe as well as undertaking to return to his alma mater and assume an Assistant Professor at the renamed Ontario College of Art and Design.

His work "has a wonderful printmaking-meets-subversive style" that incorporates vintage-like cartoon imagery with words and letterforms laced with humour. He often draws and/or paints on the inside covers of discarded text books and vintage novels, as if his scribbles were the casual doodlings of a restless mind. Seemingly playful and gentle, his vintage world of nostalgic innocence packs an observant wallop about the peccadilloes of our times.

"The work of Gary Taxali takes a basically juvenile bibliophilic impulse - doodling in the leaves of borrowed books - to a more artistically sophisticated level. The books he appropriates aren't the precious kind one sees fashioned into delicate, romantic assemblage works but the thick, hardy sort that fill high school libraries and suffer the consequent abuse. He arranges their covers and pages in grids of varying sizes and embellished these grids with an entertaining cast of cartoonish characters, random words and phrases, and icons of one sort and another. There (sic) is an appealing sense of play, drawn from childhood but supported by a mature iconographic sensibility."

-Holly Myers, Art Critic, The Los Angeles Times, January 25, 2005

Gary Taxali produced a special edition of The Toy Monkey, his first vinyl toy, at the request of The Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City. The Whitney Museum gifted a limited edition Gary Taxali print to each of their top donors at their annual fundraising Art Party. He is currently preparing for a two person show this June of mixed media works on paper and aluminum at Iguapop Gallery in Barcelona, Spain.

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416 324 5766 or mjganjoo@drabinskygallery.com