

For Immediate Release:

Emily Wardill

Gamekeepers without Game

April 1 – May 15th, 2010

Opening reception: April 1, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Altman Siegel is pleased to present *Gamekeepers without Game*, a new film by British artist Emily Wardill. The show will include her feature length film *Gamekeepers Without Game* projected in 5.1 stereo surround sound, with the corresponding film stills. Although Wardill has exhibited widely in Europe, this will be her first gallery exhibition in the United States.

The film is based on a re-imagining of the 17th century play *Life is a Dream (La Vida es Sueño)* by Pedro Calderón de la Barca translated into contemporary London. It tells the story of a girl put up for adoption by her family at a young age. When the girl is a teenager, her guilty father devises a plan for her to return to the family home, but by this time the divide is too great. The situation forces the question of the assumed virtues of bourgeois values. Her destructive response to the objects and people within leads to her being forcibly removed and having to strategize her way back. Set to a drumming soundtrack, which highlights the spatial construction of the narrative, the film has a stark yet glossy aesthetic – the characters and objects are presented as if they are airline food, with no person or object touching another.

Emily Wardill (b.1977) is a London-based filmmaker. She has exhibited widely in the UK and internationally, including an upcoming exhibition at De Appel, Amsterdam (2010), and past projects at MOCA Miami (2009); Spacex, Exeter (2009); ICA, London (2008); Fortescue Avenue/Jonathan Viner, London (2005 and 2006); and STANDARD (OSLO) (2008). Her work has been screened at the Art Now Lightbox, Tate Britain; the International Short Film Festival, Oberhausen; Whitechapel Gallery, London; Witte de With, Rotterdam; and the London Film Festival. In 2008, Wardill was nominated for the Jarman Award and performed *Life is a Dream* at the Serpentine Gallery, London in 2007.

The film will screen six times a day. An exact schedule of screening times will be available online and at the front desk of the gallery. For more information, please contact the gallery at 415-576-9300 or info@altmansiegel.com.