

ALTMAN SIEGEL

GALLERY S/F

49 GEARY ST, STE. 416 [4th floor] SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94108
tel: 415.576.9300 fax: 415.373.4471 // // // // // ALTMAN SIEGEL.COM

For Immediate Release:

A Wild Night and a New Road

Inaugural Exhibition

January 23rd – February 21st, 2009

Shannon Ebner, Wade Guyton, Matt Keegan, Josh Smith, Kelley Walker,
Christopher Williams, Christopher Wool

Opening reception: January 23rd 6-9 pm

Press preview: January 23rd 2-4 pm

Altman Siegel Gallery is pleased to present its first exhibition, *A Wild Night and a New Road*, which will run from January 23rd to February 21st, 2009. The show's artists include Wade Guyton, Christopher Wool, Josh Smith, Matt Keegan, Kelley Walker, Shannon Ebner and Christopher Williams.

While each of the show's artists has made strikingly unique aesthetic and conceptual contributions, considering them as a group reveals points of thematic resonance. Among the most prominent of these is use of image-reproduction technology to undermine the once sacrosanct status of the artist's gesture. Wool, for example, recycles his painted images by photographing them and subsequently transferring them to silkscreen. Smith denigrates his own handmade marks by working quickly and embedding them in a collage of newspapers, takeout menus, and other manufactured copy. Guyton's hand is not in many of his works. Rather, he feeds pieces of canvas through an Epson printer, generating unique drips, streaks, and mis-registrations, which become mechanical painterly marks.

A second prominent theme is a deliberate use of materials whose qualities — size, consistency, connotations — radically alter the meanings evoked by the work. Williams' use of photography to portray dissected cameras evokes a cannibalistic feel, which resonates with his referencing of Soviet-era theft of German technology. Keegan, by using drywall as the medium into which he carves text, offers a similarly destabilizing reframe in which a material that is typically relegated to unseen inner workings suddenly becomes a point-of-focus. Walker's use of chocolate becomes the defining feature of his cast of a disco ball, invalidating any associations evoked by the original object. Finally, Ebner's precisely arranged text photographs belie the hulking, elemental qualities of the cinderblock sculptures which are the source of each miniature letter.

For further information about the exhibition or the artists please contact the gallery at (415) 576-9300 or info@altmansiegel.com or look on our website www.altmansiegel.com.