

Group Show "New, Next, Now" July 31st, 2008 to August 30th, 2008

Claire Oliver Gallery is pleased to announce "New, Next, Now", a preview of our 2008 – 2009 season. In keeping with the Gallery's artistic strategy based upon an intermedia approach to art, this exhibition will expose the contemporary collector to work from both established artists and emerging talents. "New, Next, Now" presents the first six artists of the season, Phyllis Bramson, Judith Schaechter, Noah Fischer, Kate Clark, Janet Biggs, and Matthew Sleeth.



Phyllis Bramson - I Wish I May, I Wish I Might
mixed media painting on shaped canvas
41 x 47 x 2 inches

During her thirty years making art, Phyllis Bramson has created a provocative body of work dealing with sexual desire in a witty, lighthearted and sometimes self-conscious manner. Her new body of work shows a shift in structure for Bramson. More measured in appearance, relying less on opulence and decoration, these new paintings question subjective values. In what at first glance seem lighthearted metaphors, imagined events and fabricated conceits about life, Bramson continues to question distinctions between high and low art; the Artist embraces ambiguity. Also exploring this ambiguity, Judith Schaechter draws inspiration from an aesthetic of underground comics to transform her habitual doodling into dazzling works of stained glass, a medium usually reserved for saints and miracles. Miss Schaechter's exhibition opening on September 26th has been timed to coincide with the unveiling of her permanent installation, "Seeing Is Believing," at the Grand Opening of the Museum of Arts and Design's new location at 2 Columbus Circle.

Matthew Sleeth, this year's recipient of the Melbourne Prize, is a young, prolific artist whose practice has consistently challenged traditional modes of representation in photography. Witty and with a strong sense of style, what appears on the surface to be a relaxed 'snapshot' involves a complex and at times unorthodox visual syntax. He is very much in tune with the new generation of practitioners who, disillusioned with the downward spiral of postmodern intellectualism, seek to engage the viewer through the language of popular culture, fashion and design. This stylistic approach allows Sleeth to create images with both depth and subtlety which serve to document our times. Mr. Sleeth has a new Monograph just released with Aperture editions.

A Fulbright Scholar and two-time LMCC Swing Space Grant recipient, Noah Fischer will have his first solo exhibition at Claire Oliver Gallery this season. Fisher's multi-faceted light and sound installations easily lend themselves to comparison with Rube Goldberg's convoluted devices. Do not allow the seemingly rudimentary contraptions and modest materials of Fischer's sculpture to mislead you; Fischer's unflinchingly political message and technical skill reward the viewer's close examination.

In addition to Mr. Fischer, this season also marks the first solo exhibition for Kate Clark with The Gallery. Ms. Clark presents the viewer with strange aberrations that both seduce and unsettle. The Artist painstakingly crafts sculpted human faces and animal bodies to create a beast whose empathetic face calls into question what makes us human. Also concerned with the human condition, Janet Biggs explores the concentrated efforts we make to be included in society. Paying special attention to obsessive, and sometimes even harmful behavior we self-inflict, Biggs explores the inner workings of complex beings through a series of stark, beautiful images and videos accompanied by syncopated electronic scores. Janet Biggs' work has recently acquired by The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, New York and The Gibbes Museum of Art, Charleston, South Carolina.



Kate Clark - Brooding Storm
Mixed Media Sculpture
23 x 18 x 20 inches

"New, Next, Now" presents an exciting glimpse of what promises to be an exceptional season here at Claire Oliver Gallery.

Public transportation to the gallery

Take C or E train to W. 23 St., walk west to 10 Ave., then walk 3 blocks North to 26th street & 1/4 block west

OR Take any north/south local train including C, E, 1, 9, F, V, N, R, W or 6 to the W. 23 St. stop, & take the M23 bus west to 10th Ave. then walk 3 blocks North to 26th street & 1/4 block west **OR** The M11 bus stops on 10th Ave. between W. 25th & W. 26th Streets.