

Janet Biggs *Vanishing Point*

January 8 - February 7, 2009

Opening Reception: January 8, 6-8 pm

Claire Oliver Gallery is proud to present *Vanishing Point*, a solo exhibition of new work by Janet Biggs. The artist continues her exploration of our decision making process with a single channel HD video work and large format photographs made on the beautiful and otherworldly Salt Flats in Utah. By examining the struggle to maintain one's identity while pointing out the potential for that identity to fade, Biggs reveals the search for personal freedom can bring about our destruction or transcendence from our self imposed limits.



video still from *Vanishing Point*
HD single channel video
running time: 10 minutes

Juxtaposing those who have passed the vanishing point in their lives and are struggling to regain a sense of self with that of one who is willing to defy all odds to achieve her goals, *Vanishing Point* attests to the tenuous nature of the pursuit of perfection. With score by Grammy nominated composer Barney McAll and lyrics composed by Biggs herself, the viewer is immersed in a multi-sensory world of the artist's creation.

The ARC Gospel Choir, full time residents of Harlem's Addicts Rehabilitation Center, sings the sound track for Biggs' *Vanishing Point*. Since its inception in 1975, the choir's commitment to fight against drugs through old fashioned acappella spirituals has won it respect and recognition as one of America's outstanding gospel choirs.



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Leslie Porterfield is fast. After a devastating motorcycle crash on the Bonneville Salt Flats in 2007, she returned there this year (2008) even more determined to be the fastest in the world. Filmed during her record breaking runs, *Vanishing Point* captures Porterfield's intense focus, desire and determination. The viewer is witness to Porterfield's 234 mph ride.

As with Richard Sarafina's *Vanishing Point*, noted for its social commentary of the post-Woodstock mood of the 1970s, Biggs sees contemporary American society disillusioned and willing to take extreme risks to regain a sense of self.

Ms. Biggs' work can be found in important collections including: The High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA, The New Britain Museum of Art, New Britain, CT, The Gibbes Museum of Art, Charleston, SC, The and The Mint Museum, Charlotte, NC. She is the recipient of many grants and awards including Hermès of Paris, Anonymous Was a Woman Foundation Award, and a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship. This will be the artist's second solo exhibition in our 26th street 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.