

May 16, 2008

PRESS RELEASE

BRUNO DAVID GALLERY
3721 WASHINGTON BOULEVARD
SAINT LOUIS MO 63108
T. 314.531.3030
brunodavidgallery.com
GALLERY HOURS:
Wed – Sat 10:00 – 5:00pm



ELAINE BLATT: Natural Phenomena

JILL DOWNEN: Hybrida Drawings

WYNE GELEYNSE: Kit 1A: Collected Books; Some Assembly Required

June 6 – July 5, 2008

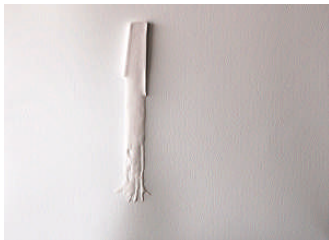
Opening Reception: Friday, June 6th, from 6 to 9 pm

Bruno David Gallery is pleased to announce an exhibition of new photographs by Saint Louis based photographer **Elaine Blatt**. Through her travels from the northern polar zone, down to the southwest deserts, Blatt has captured some of nature's most spectacular phenomena.

As a photographer working for 25 years, she has explored the globe while documenting sights seen by few people. From crawling through tiny spaces barely able to fit her small frame, to standing hours in the freezing cold, she has been able to return with truly remarkable photographs. In this latest show, Blatt is presenting a series of work depicting the dazzling natural light show, aurora borealis (the northern lights) from Reykjavik, Iceland. Also included are the incredible rock formations of the Antelope Canyon in Arizona and the sandstone Hoodoos of Bryce Canyon in Utah. A short video by Elaine Blatt titled "Corkscrew Canyon" will be showing in the New Media Room.

Elaine Blatt, a native St. Louisan, studied under Ansel Adams, Mary Ellen Mark and Lisl Dennis and received two Master Degrees from Washington University in St. Louis. Her work has been exhibited throughout the world and is displayed in institutions from St. Louis to Paris.

In the **Project Room**, **Jill Downen** is showing her recent works on paper. The Hybrida Drawings



are an emergence of new works within Jill Downen's ongoing sculptural investigations of the human body and architecture. These innovative drawings are made by pouring and molding plaster of Paris directly onto the surface of paper. The result is a subtly crafted "low relief" image that possesses a white on white aesthetic and a refined sense of touch.

As the title Hybrida implies, disparate characteristics of architecture and the human body combine with one another in the works. Architectural elements, such as walls or corners, blend with qualities of flesh similar to swelling, skin, and bone to create enigmatic, abstract shapes. The soft and crisp edges of each shape establish perspectives similar to those used in architectural drawings (top-view, end-view, oblique-view). Within such varied views, molded contours imply forces of gravity and support that press on the forms, which in turn sag and give way like flesh.

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In each drawing, Downen situates a single shape within an otherwise empty space of the paper. Empty space is pivotal. From it, a sophisticated sense of place emerges to suggest that the shapes are perhaps fragmented parts of a larger, imaginary whole for the viewers' consideration.



In the **Front Room, Wyn Geleynse**, a multimedia artist from London, Ontario, Canada is showing his recent work in an exhibition titled "Kit 1A: Collected Books; Some Assembly Required". Though requiring an investment of time to construct - think of early paper dolls with cut-out costumes- it does not require you read each book, but once constructed and displayed will project –with tongue firmly placed in cheek- the right attitude. This work evolved from an idea based on Geleynse's prolific reading habits. Acknowledging the wide array of subjects that have informed his thinking and the consequent influence on his work as an artist. When choosing the books he found his choices to be very baby boomer specific, leading him to invite a young writer and book addict Jason Dickson, to contribute to his list of influential books. Collectively, they formed the foundation of this cross-generational do it yourself library.

Wyn Geleynse was born in Rotterdam, Netherlands in 1947; then moved to Canada as a child and was raised in London, Ontario. Considered one of Canada's pioneer film and video artists, Geleynse's career spans a period of nearly 40 years. His work raises questions about self and identity, commenting on the human condition with a subtle blend of irony and humanity. Through his work, he shows his interest in the notion of film projection as a metaphor for projecting one's thoughts and desires. He has exhibited at Museum London in Ontario, Canada, Centre Culturel Canadien in Paris, France, MK Expositieruimte in Rotterdam, Netherlands, and at Princeton University, in New Jersey, U.S.A. amongst many others.

For further information, please contact the gallery.

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Bruno David Gallery is a contemporary art gallery representing the best artists that Saint Louis has to offer, along with artists of national and international reputation. The gallery is located in the heart of the Grand Center arts district, directly opposite the Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts and the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis.

Top Images:

Elaine Blatt: *aurora borealis II*, 2008,
Archival ink on paper, 17 x 26 inches.

Jill Downen: *Untitled*, 2007,
Mixed media on paper, 11 x 15 inches

Wyn Geleynse: *Kit 1A: Collected Books*
(rendering), Mixed media on paper.

Courtesy of the artists and Bruno David Gallery.

Visit Grand Center Arts District



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