

parlour

Diamonds in the Crow's Nest

April 17 – 18, 2010

Diamonds in the Crow's Nest, Parlour No. 14, is an investigation of human interactions, specifically within an intimate social setting. Using the media of painting, sculpture, and collage, the artists in the exhibition delve into subject matter including still lives, home interiors, and collections that are at once unusual and familiar. Evidence of exchanges, gatherings, and consumption present in the work prompts the viewers to consider their own vulnerabilities and psychological tendencies, whether they are attending a party, hosting a gathering, giving a gift, or the one who receives. The works negotiate how guests are influenced by their host's surroundings, belongings, and presentations, while considering the sensitivity of exposing the private to the public. Because Parlour depends on a host with a home for each exhibition, and each exhibition inevitably leads to a social gathering, the viewers of *Diamonds in the Crow's Nest* will be placed in similar scenarios that the pieces in the exhibition bring into question. The exhibition curated by artist Samuel T. Adams and hosted by artist Carmelle Safdie in her Astoria, Queens home.

Diamonds in the Crow's Nest features an eccentric group of young emerging artists, all of whom currently, or recently, live and work in Brooklyn:

The exploding and floating fragments of architecture in the paintings of **Ben Grasso** suggest a decomposition while retaining a sort of optimism, perhaps because of their whimsy, fantastical lightness, almost always set against a bright blue sky. *Ways We'll Pass the Time* offers a promising suggestion in the aftermath of a social gathering; crafting an interior for another creature to build upon, out of our own detritus. **Shara Hughes'** cacophonous painting styles and techniques reveal impossible interiors. While quoting a vast range of canonical references, from Modern sculpture to Bacon to Matisse (all in one painting), Hughes' collage-like paintings pay homage to the past while exhibiting a vivacity clearly derived from her own experiences and experiences with materials. **Emily Noelle Lambert** plays between the duality of creation and destruction, wiping away, erasing, and then rekindling her physically processed paintings and sculptures. The *Collection* pieces depict simultaneously morbid and charming busts and objects on shelves. In the context of the Parlour exhibition, the work may prompt the viewer to consider what it is he or she collects and puts on display. Dense, exuberant, and demanding, the paintings of **Eddie Martinez** are composed of an iconography all his own. Duck heads in thought bubbles, helmeted figures, horse-like mouths, pears, and personified flora are enticing reoccurring emblems that flutter in psychological translation. His *Untitled Tabletop* is slanted towards the viewer, offering a slew of objects both recognizable and barely decipherable. Dabbling in figuration, still life, and landscape painting, **Ryan Schneider's** works are bold and colorful. His paintings evoke a sense of nostalgia, whether figures are exchanging a meal at the table or gazing at the viewer from a tragedy-ridden beach; even sprawling buildings and groups of cabins embody tender sentiments. **Matt Stone's** diverse array of materials, including cardboard, polyurethane foam, resin, denim, and sawdust, coalesce into edifices and totems that resurrect and embody our detritus. For Parlour, Stone has created one of his signature banana sculptures for the centerpiece of the dining room table, blurring the boundaries of what is art and what is to be consumed. Working in a variety of media, from cut paper collage to complex site-specific

installation incorporating found, store-bought, and hand-made objects, **Trish Tillman's** work stems from notions of hospitality, celebration, and unspoken moral obligations. The resulting works are cornucopias of haunting nostalgia, including shreds of childhood sheets, aged keepsakes, and disposable party ware that still lingers about.

Ben Grasso received his MFA from Hunter CUNY in New York, and is represented by Kinkead Contemporary in LA and Theiry Goldberg in New York. He is currently visiting Milan working towards a solo exhibition at Jerome- Zodo Contemporary. **Shara Hughes** studied at Rhode Island School of Design, and is represented by Museum 52 in London and Galerie Mikael Andersen in Copenhagen. She currently lives and works in Atlanta, Georgia. **Emily Noelle Lambert** received her MFA from Hunter CUNY in New York, and is represented by Priska Juschka Fine Art in New York and Thomas Robertello Gallery in Chicago. She lives and works in Brooklyn. **Eddie Martinez** recently had solo exhibitions at ZieherSmith, New York City; Galerie Mikael Andersen, Copenhagen; and Seomi & Tuus, Seoul. He is represented by ZieherSmith, and lives and works in Brooklyn. **Ryan Schneider** recently had his third solo exhibition at Priska Juschka Fine Art in New York City. His work has been included in solo and group shows in Los Angeles, Toronto, and New York. He lives and works in Brooklyn. **Matt Stone** studied at Konstfack School of Art in Sweden, and will be receiving his MFA from School of Visual Arts this May, where he has been nominated for the prestigious Joan Mitchell Foundation Grant. His work has been shown in Utrecht, Stockholm, and New York City, among others. **Trish Tillman** received her MFA from School of Visual Arts, and has recently exhibited her work in New York City, Miami, Marfa, and D.C. She is working towards an installation at CUE Foundation this May, honoring the 2009 MFA Joan Mitchell Foundation Grant recipients.

Diamonds in the Crow's Nest opens Saturday, April 17, 2010 from 6 - 9 PM, and can be viewed on Sunday, April 18, 2010 from 12 - 4 PM by appointment only. For more information or to make an appointment, please contact Leslie or Ciara at parlourinfo@gmail.com or visit www.parlourdoor.com.

Parlour is a nomadic exhibition space started in 2008 that presents weekend-long exhibitions in different homes throughout New York City. Its impetus is to showcase the work of contemporary artists in a unique and dynamic setting. This year, Parlour is expanding its programming to include shows in different cities throughout the country and around the world. Parlour was conceived by Ciara Gilmartin and Leslie Rosa-Stumpf. Both are graduates of Sarah Lawrence College. Leslie additionally received her MA in Curatorial Studies from Goldsmiths College.