

KATE WERBLE GALLERY

83 VANDAM STREET NEW YORK, NY 10013

SECTION MAN GARETH LONG

JANUARY 23 - FEBRUARY 27, 2010

OPENING SATURDAY, JANUARY 23RD FROM 6-8 PM

PRESS RELEASE

KATE WERBLE GALLERY PRESENTS THE GALLERY'S FIRST SOLO SHOW, *SECTION MAN*, BY GARETH LONG. THIS WILL ALSO BE LONG'S FIRST SOLO EXHIBITION IN NEW YORK. TAKING ITS TITLE FROM A PARAGRAPH IN A J.D. SALINGER STORY, THE EXHIBITION IS FORMED AROUND THREE SERIES OF WORKS ABOUT BOOKS. LONG USES SALINGER AND GUSTAVE FLAUBERT AS STARTING POINTS FOR ONGOING INVESTIGATIONS INTO NARRATIVE, THE COLLABORATIVE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS BEHIND ARTISTIC PRODUCTION, CONCEPTS OF ORIGINALITY, AND EXPANDED NOTIONS OF READING AND PROJECTED READING BY THE VIEWER.

UNTITLED (STORIES) IS A SERIES OF LENTICULAR PRINTS BASED ON ICONIC 1991 COVER DESIGNS FOR SALINGER'S FOUR PUBLISHED BOOKS. LONG'S INTEREST IN THE SALINGER BOOK COVERS STEMS FROM THE COVER'S JUXTAPOSITION TO THE TEXT; WHILE THE DESIGN IS OSTENSIBLY ALIGNED WITH A MODERNIST AESTHETIC, IT WAS APPLIED LONG AFTER PUBLICATION TO A SERIES OF TEXTS THAT SEEM TO FALL JUST OUTSIDE THE BOUNDS OF MODERNIST LITERATURE IN THE U.S. THE SIX-FOOT TALL LENTICULAR PRINTS RECONFIGURE AND ANIMATE THE BRIGHTLY-COLORED GEOMETRIC LINES ON THE BOOK COVERS, SUGGESTING THE MODERNIST ART HISTORICAL PRECEDENTS OF ABSTRACT PAINTING, FACETS OF MINIMALISM, AND OF THE OP ART MOVEMENT. THE WORK QUESTIONS SALINGER'S RELATIONSHIP TO MODERNISM AND THE SUBSEQUENT APPROPRIATENESS OF THE DESIGN FOR THESE BOOKS.

A PLACE TO SIT, A PLACE TO READ, A PLACE TO SIT AND READ COMPRISES A SERIES OF MODULAR UNITS THAT FUNCTION AS SCULPTURE, BOOK DISPLAY, AND SEATING. EACH UNIT HAS A MAGAZINE-RACK-LIKE CUTOUT THAT NOT ONLY HOLDS BOOKS, BUT ALSO MAKES THE STRUCTURES APPEAR BOOK-LIKE. AS LITERAL STORAGE FOR BOOKS AND FIGURATIVE BOOK-SHAPES, THEY ARE CONTAINERS FOR POTENTIAL TEXTS. THESE SCULPTURES INTEGRATE BOOK-WORKS INTO THE GALLERY SPACE, WHILE THEIR UTILITARIAN QUALITIES PRESENT A NEW WAY OF VIEWING AND INTERACTING WITH ARTWORKS.

THE ILLUSTRATED DICTIONARY OF RECEIVED IDEAS IS AN ON GOING PROJECT IN WHICH LONG AND HIS COLLABORATOR, DEREK SULLIVAN ILLUSTRATE EVERY ENTRY IN FLAUBERT'S POSTHUMOUSLY PUBLISHED *DICTIONNAIRE DES IDÉES REÇUES*. THEIR DRAWING SESSIONS TAKE THE FORM OF PUBLIC PERFORMANCES WHERE THEY MAKE DRAWINGS FOR EACH ENTRY BASED ON GOOGLE IMAGE SEARCHES WHILE SEATED AT AN ITERATION OF THE DOUBLE DESK THAT APPEARS IN FLAUBERT'S *BOUVARD ET PÉCUCHE*, THE NOVEL IN WHICH HE INTENDED TO FEATURE HIS SATIRICAL *DICTIONNAIRE*. LONG AND SULLIVAN HAVE HAD 8 ILLUSTRATING SESSIONS WITH 125 ILLUSTRATIONS PRINTED IN THE SECOND GALLERY-VOLUME OF *THE ILLUSTRATED DICTIONARY*.

GARETH LONG WAS BORN IN TORONTO, CANADA. HE HOLDS A BA IN VISUAL STUDIES AND CLASSICAL CIVILIZATIONS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO AND AN MFA FROM YALE UNIVERSITY. HE HAS HAD SEVERAL SOLO EXHIBITIONS IN CANADA, AT OAKVILLE GALLERIES AND LEO KAMEN GALLERY, AND HAS SHOWN AT A VARIETY OF INSTITUTIONS INCLUDING THE BADISCHER KUNSTVEREIN, THE MUSÉE D'ART CONTEMPORAIN DE MONTRÉAL, ARTISTS' SPACE, AND P.S. 1.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND ADDITIONAL IMAGES, PLEASE CONTACT THE GALLERY AT info@katewerblegallery.com OR (212) 352-9700.

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