

3721 Washington Boulevard
St. Louis, MO 63108 USA

NEWS RELEASE

March 2, 2010

DECADENSE: Cindy Tower

March 19 – May 8, 2010

Opening Reception: Friday, March 19, from 6 to 9 pm

Front Room: Nanette Boileau: *Heard but not Said*

Media Room: Dickson Beall: *Membrane Moments: Journey through Loss*

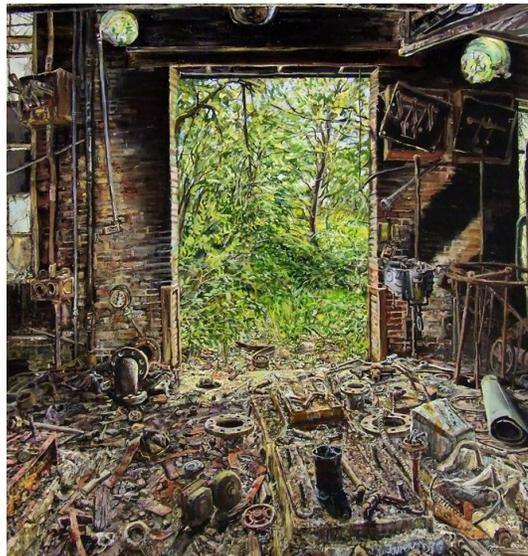
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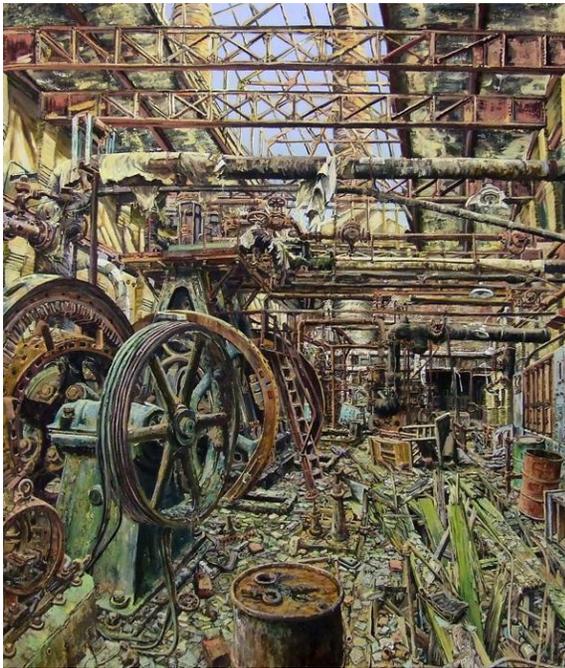
BRUNO DAVID GALLERY PRESENTS NEW PAINTINGS BY CINDY TOWER

SAINT LOUIS, MO — Bruno David Gallery is pleased to present an exhibition by **Cindy Tower**. “Decadense” [sic] includes recent paintings of decrepit, isolated and condemned architectural settings. A fully illustrated color catalogue with writings by **Charlie Finch** and **Angela L. Miller** accompany the exhibition.

Originally a sculptor and performance artist, Cindy Tower lets her creative background shine through in paintings that have become visual evidence of performance. Raw in spirit and conviction, Tower’s highly articulated works engage the viewer in a visceral, otherworldly experience. Composite views of decrepitude become metaphors of bodily functions and reflect the political climate of our modern world. Wet, gloppy oil paint is applied in a loose yet precise manner in which subjects continuously dematerialize and reemerge. Tower’s painting practice mirrors her concept of gradual accumulation that not only provides an exhausting, claustrophobic sensation but also raises questions regarding the complexity and level of exchange that occurs in our modern world. Presenting the themes of consumption, intimacy, obsolescence and loss, the paintings are an overwhelming celebration of materials and process.



They provide the viewer with an intuitive, physical experience that both engages and engulfs him or her in the self-contained environment of each artwork.



Born in Alamogordo, New Mexico, Cindy Tower received her B.F.A. from Cornell and was a forerunner of the Williamsburg art scene in the early eighties. She went on to obtain her MFA in 1988 from the University of California, San Diego, where she studied under Eleanor Antin and Allan Kaprow. In 2005, she settled in St. Louis to paint disappearing industries. In addition, she has taught at Washington University in St. Louis, The New York Studio School in New York and Savannah College of Art and Design. Tower has exhibited nationally and has been the focus of numerous one-person exhibitions including the New Museum in New York.

Her work has been reviewed in national publications, including *Art in America* and *The New York Times*.

In the **Front Room**, the gallery presents “Heard but not Said,” an exhibition of small paintings by **Nanette Boileau**. Boileau’s inspiration for this series of work comes from a childhood experience in which a classmate falsely accused her of using a racial slur. Having never heard the insult before, Boileau nonetheless recognized the word’s evilness. According to the artist, “Epithets separate childhood friends on the school playground and divide people beyond the baseball diamond.”

The use of the works’ small format forces the viewer to stand close to them and develop an intimate connection with each piece. This close proximity of the body to the painting allows the viewer to reflect on their personal relationship with the word. The pieces are painted in such a manner to appear across the room as an empty blank canvas. Upon closer inspection, the word embedded into the surface comes to light. The paintings’ white coating visually symbolizes the artist’s participation as a white woman within dominant culture. These artworks signify linguistic and visual awareness of difference and serve as a physical manifestation of the embedded signs and codes of behavior within our everyday.

Nanette Boileau is currently a doctoral student at Saint Louis University in the department of American Studies with an emphasis on Visual Culture. Boileau received her M.F.A. from Pasadena Art Center College of Design and her Bachelor of Fine Arts, from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas.



MORE

In the **Media Room**, Multidisciplinary artist **Dickson Beall**, in a five-minute single channel video titled “*Membrane Moments: Journey through*” Loss with music by **Chris W. Treloar**, explores artist Cindy Tower’s creative work, through his dense layers of pictorialism and overlapping moments in time. Beall’s multi-faceted video records broken frames of continuity—a female artist at work in a dangerous and decaying setting, and her interaction with those who inhabit such places. Presenting Tower’s truck as studio on the road and, in the context of a performance in time, Beall layers planes of experience into a powerful narrative.



The multi-layers of video and audio create an experience of detritus that mirrors Tower’s own work and documents her intense concern for the lost people and places that society has abandoned. Beall’s overlapping scenes are burned, cracked, stained, spotted, scratched and aggressive with energy, anger and concern. He presents a push of information to create ambiguity in meaning, metaphor and random chance. The video reflects Beall’s interest in dreams, fleeting thoughts, memories and reflections, as he documents the way selective consciousness accumulates and ultimately disappears. The music by drummer Chris W. Treloar of *Membranophones* heightens the tension in time that is experienced in the making of art in a transient space, blurring distinctions between painting, video and photography while playing the role of both participating artist and viewer.

Dickson Beall attended Washington University art school and received a B. A. in Art History from the University of Missouri, St. Louis, and a Doctorate in Psychology from Eden in St. Louis. He is the art critic for the West End Word. Chris W. Treloar holds Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in Percussion Performance from the St. Louis Conservatory of Music. Mr. Treloar has performed, recorded and toured with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, the Illinois Symphony Orchestra and the Opera Theatre of St. Louis. Currently, Mr. Treloar is the timpanist for the Bach Society of St. Louis, Masterworks Chorale in Belleville, Illinois, and the Cathedral Basilica - St. Louis. He teaches at Chaminade College Preparatory School where he is the percussion specialist.

Images above:

CINDY TOWER: *Passage*, 2009, oil on canvas, 72 x 68 inches
 CINDY TOWER: *Seam*, 2009, oil on canvas, 84 x 71 inches
 NANETTE BOILEAU: *DICK*, 2010, oil on canvas, 4 x 4 inches
 DICKSON BEALL: *Painting with Fire* (still), 2010, ink on paper, 16-1/2 x 22 inches

2009-2010 ART PROGRAM

LESLIE LASKEY: September / October 2009
CHRIS KAHLER: November / December 2009
BUZZ SPECTOR: January / February 2010
CINDY TOWER: March / April 2010
THEASTER GATES: May 15 – June 5, 2010 (Opening: May 15, 2010)
OVERVIEW_2010: June – August 2010

ABOUT THE BRUNO DAVID GALLERY

Bruno David Gallery, St. Louis’ leading art gallery specializing in contemporary art and one of the most important places to see art in Saint Louis. The Gallery represents some of the best artists that Saint Louis has to offer, along with artists of national and international reputation. Located in a stunningly renovated industrial building in the Grand Center arts district, directly opposite the Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts and the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis. Bruno David Gallery’s art program has introduced new contemporary art to local gallery goers, and has been discussed in important art publications including, Art in America, Art Papers, ArtNet Magazine.

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