



JENKINS JOHNSON GALLERY

BEYOND REPRESENTATION

June 5 - July 19,
2008

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Gallery hours:
Tues-Fri: 10-6
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Joel Meyerowitz, *The Elements of Air/ Water #6*, 2007, chromogenic print mounted to plexi, 40" x 30", 60" x 48" each edition of 10, 76" x 60" edition of 6



Julian Opie, *Ruth with Cigarette 3*, 2008, lambda print, matte-sealed, dry mounted onto dibond and contained in aluminum frames designed by the artist 36 5/8" x 26 3/8" edition of 50

Jenkins Johnson Gallery is pleased to announce BEYOND REPRESENTATION, opening in San Francisco, Thursday, June 5th, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. The exhibition will continue through July 19th. A fully illustrated catalogue with essay by John O'Hern is available for \$30ppd.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of Jenkins Johnson Gallery's annual Realism Invitational, which historically has been an investigation into the work of established and emerging artists of this genre. This year Karen Jenkins-Johnson, and John O'Hern, Senior Editor of *American Art Collector* and retired Director of the Arnot Art Museum in *New York*, set out to explore realism in a new way, to find out what it means in the contemporary art world. The work in this exhibition ranges from the realism of Sean Cheetham to the photo documentary style of Robert Polidori and Edward Burtynsky to video work by Carla Gannis and glass sculpture by Steffen Dam.

BEYOND REPRESENTATION includes artists who push the boundaries of the genre and strive to reveal the beauty of not only the seen, but the unseen world, the factual and the intuitive, unlike more traditional artists who strive for verisimilitude and mastery of the media. As O'Hern states in his essay this exhibit sought out work that "suggested a life force in the subjects portrayed and a point of view on the part of the artist."

It is the role of the artist to reveal the duplicitous nature of the world and uncover the truth. Artists show us the truth through semiotics and the language which they develop, often developing a visual language of their own. For example, Julian Opie has developed and adapted the graphic style used by graphic designers and advertising. His witty use of contemporary media allows for an exploration into the problem of perception and recognition, as well as its limits. Like Opie, Sean Cheetham use semiotics to communicate with the viewer. His use of a dark color palette coupled with his tattooed figures clue us in to the dismal situation of his subjects. They mark themselves to become visible in the world where they are invisible. Sean Cheetham brings who lives on the fringes of society to the forefront of our visual plane.

Like Sean Cheetham, Robert Polidori's work has the important task of bringing the forgotten members of society into our consciousness. Polidori's photograph, "Stairwell in School #5" taken close to the site of Chernobyl, reminds us of the communities that were destroyed by man's inability to control his own inventions. On the other hand, artists such as Joel Meyerowitz use the camera to reveal the beauty and simplicity of the world by photographing the sublime in his series: "The Elements: Air/Water, Part 1." As John O'Hern states in his essay, each of these works, invites, "contemplation and discussion, not passive admiration."

The 2008 exhibition will showcase the work of: Ben Aronson, Daniel Barkley, Michael Bergt, Giles Bettison, Edward Burtynsky, Sean Cheetham, Dan Dailey, Steffen Dam, Scott Fraser, Julia Fullerton-Batten, Anne-Karin Furunes, Carla Gannis, Lynn Goldsmith, Valerie Hammond, Grant Hayunga, Wes Hempel, Partrick Hughes, Joshua Jensen-Nagle, Kahn & Selesnick, Joel Meyerowitz, Charles V. Miner, The OP Group, Julian Opie, Robert Polidori, Chris Raecker, John Eric Riis, Francesca Sundsten, Nancy Switzer, Jason Wheatley, William Wylie, JeongMee Yoon, Christopher Young and Peter Zokosky.

New York will showcase a preview of the exhibition beginning on June 5th through July 19th. Featured in the New York preview are artists: Daniel Barkley, Julia Fullerton-Batten, Lynn Goldsmith, Grant Hayunga, Joshua Jensen-Nagle, Francesca Sundsten, Nancy Switzer, JeongMee Yoon and Jason Wheatley. Gallery hours for New York are Tues-Saturday 10:00-6:00 p.m. Starting July 1, summer hours are Mon-Fri 11:00-5:00 p.m.