



JENKINS JOHNSON GALLERY

**Adia Millett**

*The Room Inside*

September 1 - October 1, 2011



**Adia Millett, *The difference between us*, 2011, mixed media, 16 x 17 x 13 inches**

Jenkins Johnson Gallery, San Francisco is pleased to present a solo exhibition of new miniatures and photographs by Oakland artist, Adia Millett. The exhibition will run from September 1 through October 1, 2011. There will be an opening reception for the artist on Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 7:30 pm. This will be Millett's first solo exhibition in San Francisco.

Former Artist-in-Residence at the Studio Museum in Harlem, Adia Millett has focused the last four years on creating life-size installations. In *The Room Inside*, Millett returns to the medium she is most widely known for, miniatures. Through miniature structures Adia Millett explores ideas of fantasy in conjunction with make believe, dreaming, meditation, and projected emotion. From the outside, Millett's miniatures appear as a well crafted dollhouse or architectural model, evoking a nostalgic Americana symbol of a home, but the interiors present a contrast to the ordinary façade. Open windows on the outside walls offer a view into what is a rather unusual space. As seen in *The difference between us*, what largely is a model of a seemingly ordinary living room a railroad runs from the window through the room and up to the ceiling. Another feature, unnoticeable at first glance, is the head of a small cat, like a gargoyle, which adorns the outside wall of the house. These out of the ordinary, miniatures become vessels for the viewer's interpreted narratives, allowing their thoughts and fantasies to unfold within the rooms. These homes represent a parallel between psychological and architectural space.

Each miniature is paired with a photograph of the interior of the home. The photograph is a separate piece which depicts a magnified version of the settings in the house. It establishes a dialogue with the house itself while carrying its own meaning. As stated by Courtney J. Martin, "The photographs of the existing structures become something else entirely, not simply stages or sets with props; they enable a view into the home, which can become a view into the self or a view into a nation's consciousness. Once revealed, the houses and photographs return the viewer to the space of imagination where the ideal of home was first built."

Adia Millett received her MFA from the California Institute of the Arts and BFA from the University of California at Berkeley. Millett has exhibited her work extensively in solo and group exhibitions nationwide including *Greater New York* at PS1 in Long Island City and *Inside the Collection: Interiors from the Studio Museum* and *Freestyle* at the Studio Museum in Harlem. Currently, Millett's work is on exhibit from June 16 through August 28, 2011 at the Bakersfield Museum of Art in *Mini Size Me: A Monumental Critique of Today's Handheld Society*. Additionally, she has participated in Artist in Residencies such as the Studio Museum in Harlem and the Headlands Center for the Arts and was a recipient of the New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship and the Philip Morris Fellowship. Her work is represented in the BET Collection, Eileen Norton Collection, Studio Museum in Harlem, and West Collection. Adia Millett was born in Los Angeles and currently lives and works in Oakland.