

PRESS RELEASE:

GROUP EXHIBITION

EXHIBITION OPENING: JANUARY 16TH 2010

The gallery is pleased to present “*Five Centimeters Short*” an exhibition featuring the artists **Erik Bakke, Bruce Conner, Tracey Emin, Desirée Holman, and David Huffman**. This group show is curated by **Erik Bakke**. The show runs from January 16th to February 10th 2010. There will be an opening reception for the artists on Saturday January 16th from 6-10pm.

Erik Bakke will display paintings, drawings, photographs and a new artist's book, a **Bruce Conner** film will be screened, **Tracey Emin** is represented by works on paper, **Desirée Holman** shows a video work, and **David Huffman** will show paintings.

“*Five Centimeters Short*,” the show's title cracks open memories of the Cold War and First-Wave Conceptualism. In his curatorial statement for the show, **Bakke** cites shaman/charlatan Joseph Beuys and his infamous 1964 pronouncement on the Berlin Wall:

“Beuys recommends that the Berlin Wall be elevated by 5 cm (better proportions!)”

Bakke adds: “The Berlin Wall lacked. Voltaire might appreciate that idea. Leibniz not.”

The art of **Bakke, Conner, Emin, Holman, and Huffman** might be very different in a more perfect world.

In a series of interweaving drawings, photographs and paintings, **Erik Bakke** focuses on two historic West Coast figures: legendary Native American figure Ishi and 1940s Japanese-American cartoonist Chris Ishii. Using images and artifacts related to these two figures, **Bakke** explores the ways that U.S. government policies deprived these two men of the California homeland of their birth. **Bakke** uses these characters as framing devices to push further narratives involving Vladimir Nabokov, the labor strikes of 1968, and the execution of Saddam Hussein. **Bakke** writes: “When the irreplaceable is missing, rational explanations are too late.” Accompanying this series, for his new artist's book “67 76” **Bakke** adopts the iconic orange ball logo of U.S. oil company *Union 76*.

Bruce Conner's films helped define the canon of post World War II experimental film. Conner specialized in creating much from little. Rapidly cut, high speed, dense compilations of home, documentary and Hollywood footage of disaster, brutality, and nature define his production. In “REPORT” (1967) and “CROSSROADS” (1976) Conner used found footage to revisit the President Kennedy assassination and atomic bomb tests. In the film “THE WHITE ROSE” (1967) Conner documents the transportation of artist Jay DeFeo's massive painting “The Rose” through the dismantled wall of her upper floor San Francisco studio (the painting being too large to move another way).

Tracey Emin 's autobiography is the focus of her rough-around-the-edges practice. In the print work "Fighting for Love" **Emin** textual account of the ugly side of loss includes the lines "Every hole in my body is bleeding.."

Desirée Holman 's video projection titled "Troglodyte" gleefully explores simian life. "Troglodyte" features a group of actors in chimpanzee suits lounging and cavorting in nature and, at other moments, dancing at a house party. Whether grooming, dancing, fighting, or mating, the group's behavior uncannily highlights the ritual regressive relation between chimp and human life

David Huffman 's paintings are populated by African-Americans in spacesuits. These figures are shown standing in lush, expansive landscapes. **Huffman** describes these figures as "Traumanauts" as "psychological personalities coming from the rupture of slavery for Africans." **Huffman** 's subjects range from black American history, to Hurricane Katrina, to the car culture of the city of Oakland. **Huffman** 's works deliberately evince incongruity. He states "Well, it's always been the case that the paintings are like real states of nature, which is that, you can have a holocaust occur on a beautiful day."

For further information about this exhibition, please check the gallery website www.rupertgoldsworthy.com or contact us via telephone or email.



DAVID HUFFMAN

"Jack Johnson"(Traumanaut portrait series), 2009

oil on wood panel

46 x 46 cms

Courtesy of the artist and Patricia Sweetow Gallery, SF.