



A.M. Richard Fine Art • 328 Berry Street, 3rd floor • Brooklyn, NY 11211
www.amrichardfineart.com • tel: (917) 570-1476 • gallery@amrichardfineart.com

For immediate release.

BILL BURNS: *Dogs and Boats and Airplanes*

November 15th, 2008 – January 24th, 2009

Artist talk and closing reception Friday January 23rd 6-9pm.

A.M. Richard Fine Art is pleased to announce, DOGS AND BOATS AND AIRPLANES, an exhibition of works of art by conceptual artist BILL BURNS.

Through numerous travels beginning in 2000, the artist has been documenting -snapshot style- dogs, boats and airplanes. Concurrently, the artist has been compulsively collecting tea towels, salt and pepper shakers in the form of dogs, boats and airplanes. To this accumulation, the artist has contributed a series of watercolors, each distinguished by rather curious poetic captions. Were it not for the knowledge that Mr. Burns is well versed in participatory gestures, the concept of the exhibition may seem perplexing at first. For the last three months- several parcels have been sent to the gallerist with strict instructions: "do not open". In a modern twist on the tradition of folk literature, a tall tale letter campaign was initiated with unsuspecting urban functionaries: a 34th district council member, a New York City clerk, a Purina Pet Care customer representative. Interpreted as a continuum of Dadaism, the key to the exhibition may lie in its absurdist premises.

Utilitarian objects, not intended to be perceived as art, are stripped of their domestic identity and placed in a novel situation. The same can be said of the interaction with the city office workers. They are being disrupted from their routine line of work. In responding to the artist' letters they unwittingly engage in an artistic process and are forced to act out of ordinary context. Each stage of the exhibition involves movement, travel and/or action. Simultaneously, a narrative is being weaved on various planes. The story begins with the spontaneous character of the photographic snapshot. It's punctuated with the displacement of objects and threads on with the interruptive nature of the artist's communication with selected individuals. The culmination of the various agitations leads to a peaceful occupation: the contemplation of the works on exhibit.

If Dada sprang from the results of the disasters of war and was experienced through public gatherings, demonstrations, and art publications, then Mr. Burns has successfully re-interpreted this tradition.

In lieu of a manifesto, an illustrated booklet accompanies the exhibition.

