

June 27 - July 14

curator: Derek Eller, Derek Eller Gallery

artists: Erik Wesselo and Clifford LeCuyer

July 18 - July 28

curator: Annie Herron and Larry Walczak,
eyewash Gallery

artists: Amy Kao and Sante Scardillo

"222" is a summer program comprising two, two-person, two-week exhibitions each curated by a gallerist who selects two artists they do not represent to create a curatorial dialogue.

apexart curatorial program

291 church street

new york, ny 10013

212 431-5270 ph

212 431-4447 fx

info@apexart.org

www.apexart.org

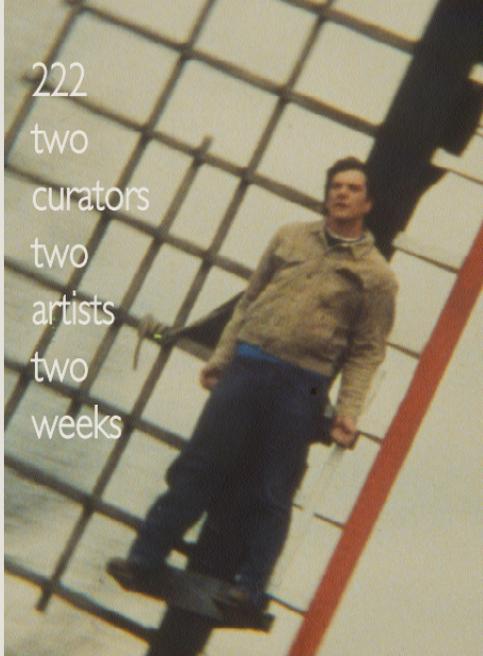
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Cover: Erik Wesselo *Düffels Möll*, 1997 (two film stills)
16mm film running time: approximately 5 minutes

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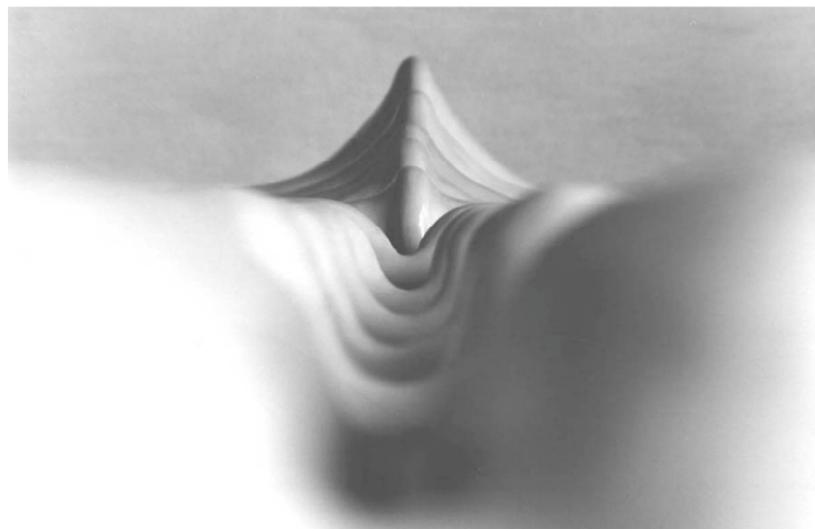


For this exhibition I have selected Erik Wesselo and Clifford LeCuyer, two artists who utilize the landscape and the body to explore notions of existence and discovery.

Wesselo's *Düffels Möll*, a 16mm film made in 1997, begins *in medias res*. Erik Wesselo is bound to the sail of a windmill rotating swiftly counterclockwise. The movements of the camera are gentle, smooth, and strangely hypnotic. Initially the camera follows him closely with only his body and a section of the sail visible. There is no sound. Slowly the camera begins to zoom out revealing the windmill's monumentality and the vastness of the surrounding landscape. In the final minutes of the film, the camera returns to close position, but this time the movements are aggressive and disorienting. The film concludes with the blades of the windmill coming to a stop.

By binding himself to the windmill, Wesselo is simultaneously empowered and powerless. Flying through the air at great heights, he experiences the rush of being able to survey his surroundings from a new perspective. At the same time, Wesselo's movement is dictated by the forces of nature. Using camerawork to parallel his psychological experience, Wesselo interchanges the particular and the infinite conveying a range of internal emotions. Not only interested in paying homage to his native landscape and to Holland's history of painting, his gesture also establishes his position within the context of Dutch art.

Los Angeles-based artist Clifford LeCuyer makes photographs of table-top maquettes that he constructs with wet porcelain. Like Wesselo, LeCuyer sets up images for the camera while leaving the



Clifford LeCuyer *God's Eye*, 2001
Black and white photograph 13 x 19 inches

meticulous details of his preparation hidden from the viewer. His process involves moving back and forth between working with material and looking through the lens of a 35mm camera. The final images are a sort of photographic drawing. Shot and printed in black and white, his images are soft, grainy, and often somewhat out of focus. To that end, they lack the signifiers of traditional photography, almost appearing to be grisaille quasi-photorealistic paintings or delicate charcoal works on paper.

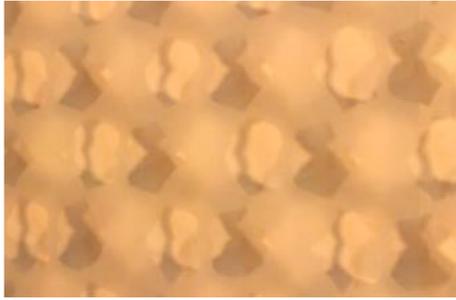
The content of LeCuyer's images is nearly as elusive as the media; his intuitive landscapes are reminiscent of the body, the pyramids of size, the surface of the moon, and Smithsonian's *Spiral Jetty*. Working from memory, LeCuyer doesn't create images, he rediscovers them. Attracted to the monumental and its psychological power, he utilizes landscape, playing with elemental form and deep illusionary space.

LeCuyer's work mirrors the self, complex and unexplored. It deals with an array of dualities including ancient and modern, interior and exterior, infinite and particular, masculine and feminine, and real and artificial. The unique combination of monumental space and perspectival recession work together to pull the viewer into his sensual and spiritual world.

Both Wesselo and LeCuyer are concerned with personal existence within a broader context. LeCuyer's "self-portraits" depict the inner landscape of his body and indirectly speak to his own mortality. At the same time, Wesselo claims his place within a vast continuum of time and space. The two artists also focus on rediscovering the familiar. LeCuyer mines his subconscious to discover original form. Wesselo, on the other hand, alters his vantage point to discover new things about both the landscape and himself.

Derek Eller
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Being a Dealer and a Curator necessitates doing studio visits as much as you can find the time to do them, which means you normally see more work in artists' studios than in galleries or museums. For 222, we each picked the artist whose work we'd seen most recently at a studio visit that had made the biggest impact on us. In the case of Amy Kao, I'd been to her studio once and was almost instantly bowled over; my partner Larry Walczak had been following Sante Scardillo's work and it had maintained supremacy in his mind over everything else he'd seen during that time. Working with a partner, in the case of *eyewash* means bringing two distinctly different aesthetic visions together. In 222, it has resulted in work that represents different extremes in today's pluralistic artworld. Amy Kao's work is concerned with seeing and how she can manipulate us into being conscious of this process with her visual pyrotechnics. On the other hand, Sante Scardillo's work is concerned with how advertising tries to manipulate the viewer and by artfully altering the text, underlines what it actually saying. The more obvious connection between the two, that will strike anyone who walks into the gallery, is very superficial, i.e., they have in common two-dimensional results that hang simply on the wall with pushpins. The combination of these two artists emphasizes the fascinating range of intents and stylistic approaches that co-exist in the very simplest of formats.



Amy Kao *Untitled*, 1999 (detail) M/Mar 47 1/2 x 36 inches

Amy Kao's *M/Mar* pieces are explorations of perceptual emergence achieved through light. They consist of incisions, made with a razor blade, to create an aggregate of a singular motif, achieving spatial volume through a play of shadows against the translucency of material. Volume defies mass and opacity. Here, volume is light, voluminous light, as a conversation/ juxtaposition of various kinds of light. Luminosity is defined as soft, hard, translucent – the diffused movement, reflection and emanation of light.

An equally compelling imperative is the permutation of a geometric motif. In each of the *M/Mar* pieces, a simple motif systematically populates (mathematically symmetrical) within the confines of a rectangular field. Geometry dictates its underpinning structure; its whole adheres to an inherent grammar of the material and immaterial. Evident in these *M/Mar* pieces is the issue of de-materialization. Negation is transformed into emergence – a becoming through transfer (transference) and shadow (phenomenon). It is at this juncture where the work is situated, in the threshold between negation and emergence, the tangible and the intangible.

However, these works are not exclusively a pure investigation of the optical, for they deal with the whole experiential, perceptual event. At this juncture the viewer is engaged in a visual/bodily dialogue with the work. The viewer's physical position and proximity to the pieces, either centered or peripheral, alters the pieces completely.

In the *LIFESTYLE Series*, Sante Scardillo confronts the impact of advertising on social behavior by "hijacking" advertisements, altering the text and enlarging them. While maintaining the advertisement-slickness and aesthetic appeal, he turns the original intent against itself making hilarious and thought-provoking statements, satirizing, exposing and questioning the Message of advertising.

The level of Scardillo's ideological commitment to his work becomes apparent when you read his Artist's Statement, which reads more like a manifesto than the usual artist's thoughts on his or her work. Scardillo declares, "The ultimate goal of brand domination defines a tool of cultural colonization with implications and objectives beyond simple economics. Global ad campaigns no longer advertise the mere object exchanged for currency, it is the image as mirror, the marketing of the imaginary inclusion in the elite who can appreciate the subtleties of a constellation made of objects that imply a life style. No longer just incidental to the medium, the message is the Message."

Annie Herron
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Sante Scardillo, *Be a Number*, 2001 C-print 60 x 40 inches version 2 of 2