

Press release:

Ornament and Landscape:
On the Nature of Artifice

Curated by Tom Huhn

March 20 - April 19, 1997



Alison Moritsugu Landscape End of Day 1996 Oil on wood (logs) 58" x 42" x 2.5"

Artists included:

Ann Agee

Helen Berggruen

Robert Berlind

Richmond Burton

Vija Celmins

Peter Hristoff

Neil Jenney

Ellen K. Levy

Georgia Marsh

Doug Martin

Ann Messner

Alison Moritsugu

Michael Norton

Jules Olitski

Harriet Shorr

John Torreano

The ornamental aspects of the work in this exhibition are not simply decorative appropriations of the genre of landscape. Ornaments are instead indecipherable inscriptions upon the body of landscape. These ornaments would have that body turn aside from all gestures away from itself, in order to return more directly to itself. Space without expanse, breadth without vision, ornament promises the inhabitation of a space we haven't yet glimpsed. Ornaments look -- or rather feel -- like the return of pleasure.

Tom Huhn teaches aesthetic theory and modern philosophy at Wesleyan University. He has published numerous articles on Kant, Adorno and issues related to postmodernism. He has recently co-edited a book on Adorno's aesthetic theory, as well as a collection of essays by Arthur Danto.