

For Immediate Release
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identity
new works by kelly mudge, marybeth rothman and kathy stecko
november 4 – december 4, 2010



Kelly Mudge / *Emily*
mixed media / 24 x 48 inches



Kathy Stecko / *Souvenir*
plaster, casein paint and porcelain (detail)



Marybeth Rothman / *Camile 7:17 pm*
encaustic and mixed media / 40 x 36 inches

November 4, 2010 - New York, NY: Tria Gallery presents *identity* featuring paintings by Kelly Mudge, encaustic mixed media works by Marybeth Rothman, and sculpture by Kathy Stecko.

Exploring aspects of personality, behavior, sociology and the psyche, the works in *identity* use different media and styles to challenge preconceptions of beauty and humanity. In their own way, Mudge, Rothman and Stecko each probe below the surface of their subjects to expose the reality beneath. In so doing they are all able to capture personalities, hopes, dreams, fears, anxieties and insecurities. In the single instant depicted in a painting or sculpture, much is revealed on an outward physical level as well as on an inner psychological one. The viewer shares – perhaps with a touch of voyeurism - an intimate moment, a very human one, and receives a brief insight into the subjects' true identities.

Kelly Mudge

Mudge has been working in the art world for the past decade. Her work has been shown in several New York galleries including Tria, Heist, Allen Sheppard and The Drawing Center. She recently received the Ruth and Harold Chenven Foundation grant for her *Lost Boys of the Sudan* portrait series.

Of her work in *identity* Mudge states:

The viewer can become intimately acquainted with the subject on an emotional, intellectual and moral level. Anatomical incorrectness with impossible scenery combine to create a mythological symbolism individual to each subject...a subtle tension is created on each surface and the viewer is invited to interpret what is clearly stated, and what remains to be said...

Mudge received her BFA in Painting from Pratt Institute. She has recently been living in Brooklyn with her husband and her English bulldog, and now resides in California.

Marybeth Rothman

Rothman uses vintage photographs as the foundation and inspiration for her encaustic mixed media paintings. She deconstructs the images to create moving, figurative images through a fusion of encaustic, paint, graphite drawings and solar plate etchings. Her work in *identity* consists of strong, compelling images that “unravel a fleeting moment, defined by time and circumstance.” She explains:

My work is a journal of human contact about strangers, juxtaposing the figure with an abstract form or other echoing counterpart. My collection of thousands of orphaned, vintage photographs is the catalyst for my paintings... I am intrigued by the conflicting, reciprocal, and parallel relationships of people, objects and environment in a photographic image.

Rothman earned her BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design. Her work has been shown in dozens of solo and group exhibits across the country, and she is the recipient of numerous honors and awards for her work in encaustics.

Kathy Stecko

Stecko's work consists largely of figurative constructions that use the body as metaphor. Her work in *identity* is a series of wall-mounted sculptures (in addition to a larger, free-standing piece) that explores the idea of cause and effect relationships. She uses her everyday experiences, both ordinary and not-so-ordinary, as catalysts for her work.

I draw from the experiences we all share: loss, isolation, and the desire to believe in something larger than one's self. The idea that a sequence of events can create a domino effect is essential to my work, which, designed like a scroll, unfolds as a narrative as the figures relate, react and respond to one another...

Stecko received her MFA from the New York Academy of Art, and her BA from the University of Michigan. She teaches at Pratt and lives and works in Brooklyn.

It is the mission of Tria Gallery to exhibit a balance of established artists with impressive resumes and exciting young talent, showing representational and abstract work, painting, sculpture, mixed media and installations. The common denominator is that each Tria artist has a unique, authentic voice and a compelling body of work which the directors feel should be given an audience.

Tria is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday from 11 am to 6 pm, or by appointment.

identity runs from November 4 through December 4, 2010.

For more information, please visit www.triagallerynyc.com.