

MURRAY GUY

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THE CONVERSATION

4 March - 15 April 2000

Mette Tronvoll / Francis Cape / Dave Muller / Beat Streuli

The exhibition starts by placing diptych photographs by Mette Tronvoll alongside two painted shutters by Francis Cape. Tronvoll shows two images of a person standing in front of a neutral background. At first the photographs appear to be identical but upon closer inspection subtly reveal diverse moods: introspection and animation. These portraits show emotional changes experienced from one second to another and the difficulty of expressing character in one image. Cape's works reference American and English shutter patterns of the 1860s, 'Ravenscroft Street' is taken from a house in London, 'Lincoln Avenue' from a house in Brooklyn. These shutters not only display the similarity and difference between vernacular woodwork, but also compare the anonymity of the artisan with the individuality of the artist.

In the second part of the exhibition, Tronvoll leaves the room and Dave Muller enters. The theme of doubling is continued as Muller fills the east wall with a multi-panelled watercolor of a theoretical view from the Dia's rooftop in Chelsea. To the north is the Empire State Building, where Andy Warhol filmed 'Empire' (projected on Dia's roof in 1994). Next to that is a Warhol quote, explaining his use of double screens and his interest in 'different colors and patterns and intricate divisions'. In the center of the wall is the view of Dan Graham's 'Rooftop Urban Park Project'. Looking south is The Clocktower, with the top facade removed to show the bell. Alongside is a quote by Michael Asher, who did an installation there in 1976, describing his intention to merge interior and exterior, letting visitors 'identify familiar views... each view framed by the windows in the interior and seen in its complete context from the balcony and porch.' Cape's shutters also intimate the border between the exterior and interior world.

In the final part of the exhibition, Cape leaves and Beat Streuli arrives. Contrasting with the airy views from Dia, Streuli's large black and white photographs of New York show the city's structure at street level, the shops, cars and telephone booths conveying the bustle and chaos of everyday life.

The show will be rehung every two weeks.

For further information please call Margaret Murray or Janice Guy at 212 463 7372.

Gallery Hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 10am - 6pm.