

M U R R A Y G U Y

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FRANCIS CAPE

February 21 – April 3, 2004
Opening Saturday February 21st, 6-8pm

Murray Guy is pleased to announce the third solo exhibition of Francis Cape.

In recent drawings Francis Cape has created odd interiors furnished with curious groupings of incongruous constructions. Ambling from one idea to another, reflecting the fragmentation that occurs in museum displays of architecture, furniture and decorative artifacts, Cape has built objects out of fragments, including salvaged elements of his own installations.

Form defies function in most of Cape's oeuvre: the "cabinet" sculptures do not open and are too shallow to accommodate contents, appearing more akin to painting and drawing than to sculpture. More recently, however, the work has been taken off the wall to become free-standing objects. Benches and desks have been incorporated, often at the 'back' of the sculpture. These unpainted areas suggest the artist's workshop, activity behind the scenes, the process of thinking out ideas and drawing them up, of planning out proportions, then constructing the immaculately finished painted façade. These spaces provide the viewer with a hidden place, a retreat, part scholastic and part monastic, from which to eavesdrop, make notes and contemplate. Situated on the reverse of the painted surface, where an artist's signature would appear on a canvas, they make concrete Cape's notion that the viewer completes the work. The interchange of artist and viewer, of back and front, inside and outside has always been present in Cape's work, now it is less 'invisible' and therefore removed, but more jocular and inviting.

Francis Cape's solo exhibition at the St. Louis Art Museum opens April 1st, 2004. He has exhibited at P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, New York, The Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, Ridgefield, CT, Eli Marsh Gallery, Amherst College, Amherst, MA, Weatherspoon Art Gallery, Greensboro, NC, The College of Saint Rose Art Gallery, Albany, NY Real Art Ways, Hartford, CT and in galleries in the USA, Germany and the UK.