

M U R R A Y G U Y

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north gallery:

FRANCIS CAPE

Waterline

May 13 – July 28, 2006

Opening reception Saturday May 13, 6-8pm

“Waterline” is an installation of framed photographs hung in a level line above a wainscot of painted paneling. The photographs were taken on a walk through Gentilly and St. Roch in Central New Orleans on November 6, 2005, two months after Katrina.



Francis Cape had gone to New Orleans to work at the Louisiana State Museum. One of their buildings had a damaged roof, and the contents were being moved to temporary storage in Baton Rouge. His walk took him through an area that was not the dramatic Lower Ninth Ward of media coverage. Gentilly, a middle class neighborhood of ordinary homes, could be anywhere in America. He saw two or three families clearing their homes, a few cars passed. Wanting to photograph the ordinariness and silence, Cape focussed on the waterline which, together with the army's paint markings listing date and body count, acted as a sign rather than a description of what had happened. More obvious in some photographs than others, the presence of the waterline accumulates during the viewing.

The paneling of the wainscot is that pressed “random board” sheet paneling so common throughout the US in the last quarter of the twentieth century. Often subsequently painted over, it appears as such in one of the photographs, and unpainted in another. The wainscot establishes a strong horizontal line using an architectural element that works against the distancing effect of the exhibition space.

Francis Cape has had solo exhibitions at the St. Louis Art Museum, Eli Marsh Gallery Amherst College, Amherst, MA and The College of Saint Rose Art Gallery, Albany. He has participated in group shows at the Cincinnati Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, OH, P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, New York, The Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, Ridgefield, CT, Weatherspoon Art Gallery, Greensboro, NC, Real Art Ways, Hartford, CT. Waterline is currently also on view at Grimm/Rosenfeld, Munich, Germany.

Gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday 10am – 6 pm. For further information please contact the gallery at 212 –463 7372 or info@murrayguy.com.