

For Immediate Release:

Steven Parrino

31 August through 02 October 1999

Team Gallery will present new work by Steven Parrino from the 31st of August through the 2nd of October 1999. The gallery is located at 527 West 26th Street, between Tenth and Eleventh Avenues, on the ground floor.

This Parrino exhibition is comprised of three large-scale works: "Zodiac," "Stockade, Existential Trap for Speed Freaks," and "Dancing on Graves." Each of these is a black monochrome painting that has been made, broken and revived. These pieces continue to explore the poetic distortions available within Parrino's brand of minimalism-a generous, committed, and gentle art made by a painter both radical and academic. Exploring and deifying the deformed within a classical structure, the guts of his life spill out like embarrassments on white tablecloth.

One could say that Steven Parrino, as an artist, has been obstinate, tenacious, however, within a confined set of parameters he has invented a practice and excelled at its constant reinterpretation. An intense dedication, coupled with a pliant rigor has kept his work alive and finds it forever sparking the interest of younger viewers. Parrino's accidents implicate the gallery space in a collision of cruelty that reveres and rejects painting's complacency, and which speaks of the discipline at the heart of any rejection of conformity.

The performative nature of Parrino's process is central to this exhibition where a video component presents the supposed "glamour" of the artist's studio mated with an absurd idea of work ethic. Manuela, who dances at Vampyros Lesbos, functions here as a Muse, of sorts. Hired specifically to dance on one of Parrino's paintings, the exotic dancer performs on a surface which the artist then slices with a circular saw. A projection of the idealized studio, this video work also seems to convey a fin-de-siecle tristesse manifested increasingly as a nostalgia for the punk era.

Parrino exhibits regularly with Rolf Ricke in Koln, Massimo deCarlo in Milan, Pierre Huber in Geneva and Kees van Gelder in Amsterdam. His previous one-person exhibitions in New York include John Gibson, Metro Pictures, and his 1984 solo debut at Nature Morte. Parrino was part of 1993's Prospect and 1992's Documenta. He has also exhibited at the Kolnischer Kunstverein; L'Consortium, Dijon; Kuenstlerhaus Palais Thurn und Taxis, Bregenz; Musee d'Art Contemporain, Lyon; Musee de Nimes; Centraal Museum, Utrecht; the Nuremberg Museum and the De Appel Foundation in Amsterdam.

This is the artist's second one-man show at Team. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10am to 6pm.