

about the artist

Frances Stark's writing and artwork—she is well known for both—physically and thematically examine the creative act. Her dense collages of empty chairs, colorful birds, lone tables, and other signifiers for artistic production are embedded in fields of white that soften with the levity of the artist's native Los Angeles. Meticulously constructed from material that is often used to support, rather than create, art in the studio (words, tape, glassine, magazines), the images conceptually and materially consider the complicated and fraught nature of artistic creation.

Born in Newport Beach, CA in 1967, Frances Stark received an MFA from Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, CA in 1993. She lives in Los Angeles, CA and teaches at University of Southern California. Solo exhibitions include Marc Foxx, Los Angeles, CA (2006); CRG, New York, NY (2005); Galerie Daniel Buczolcz, Cologne, Germany (2004); and Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA (2002). Group exhibitions include White Columns, New York, NY (2005); Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX (2003); and Los Angeles County Museum of Art, CA (2000).

about the exhibition

Frances Stark's artwork explores the struggles of process and regularly incorporates the written word. The intricate relationship developed between image and text reflects on the difficulty of translation—thoughts to words and words to image. *In and In* is a collage of two four-foot tall stacks of papers. Colorful advertisements and other pieces of mail are cut into a sheet of white paper and held together with bits of linen tape. While the image suggests piles of reading as inspiration, the material recalls the dull tasks that come before or after the day's (art)work—sifting through the mail and throwing out the junk.

Words, the building blocks of many creative endeavors, appear more nakedly in other works. *Unfortunately...* is a collage of birds supporting a pair of thought balloons. Representation and word feed off each other; the letters that fill the circles vertically read, "Unfortunately nothing is so difficult to achieve as a literary representation of a man thinking." This sense of urgency and futility is echoed in Stark's persistent efforts to visualize and verbalize artistic production.

Birds, a symbol of creativity and divinity, recur. In *Birds Harmonizing on Upended Table* they twitter on one leg of the upside-down furniture. Composed of hand-drawn columns of a computer document icon, the table evokes rows of thoughts waiting to be filed. Oblivious, the birds enjoy each other despite the humdrum gloom of their overturned perch.

The wall-bound *An Unfolding Soft Secretary with Finales* recalls the idea of a writing desk, complete with paper slots and a glassine drawer, without providing a work surface. *Unspeakable Compromise of the Portable Work of Art #11* adds to the sense of a comfortable yet off-kilter studio space. The chinoise style chair, rust-colored and rickety, is balanced on plaster plinths and tenuously held together with tape. Like a thought wafting between brilliance and folly, the piece is on the verge of coming together or falling apart.

The rich tones of the chair harmonize with a worktable and a worn oriental rug nearby. Atop are Stark's recent efforts of translation. She has included a mockup of the gallery and the progressions of a forthcoming book of her visual art production, a complement to the existing volume of her collected writings.

Frances Stark lays the struggle of the process bare. Her work conveys the infinite (im)possibility of the workspace and the complexity of bringing art, and thoughts, into being.

-Kate Green

events

Exhibition Dates

May 4 – July 16, 2006

Opening Reception

Thursday, May 4, 6:30-8:00 PM

Gallery walk-thru with artist at 7:00 PM

Brown Bag Lunch

Wednesday, June 28, 12:00 – 1:00 PM

Join curator Kate Green for a tour and a brown bag lunch by Sip (\$6.50). Please call Artpace for menu and reservations.

Event Locations

All events are free and held at Artpace San Antonio, 445 N. Main Avenue. Free parking at N. Flores and Savings streets.

about artpace san antonio

Artpace San Antonio serves as a laboratory for the creation and advancement of international contemporary art. Artpace believes that art is a dynamic social force that inspires individuals and defines cultures. Our residencies, exhibitions, and education programs nurture the creative expression of emerging and established artists, while actively engaging youth and adult audiences.

Artpace is open to the public Wednesday thru Sunday, 12-5 PM, Thursday 12-8 PM and by appointment. There is no charge for admission.

For more information, please contact Libby D. Tilley, External Affairs Director, at 210 212 4900 x122.

**Frances Stark's writings
and intimate paper
collages consider the
fraught nature of the
artistic process.**

Frances Stark

May 4 – July 16, 2006

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445 North Main Avenue San Antonio TX 78205 1441
t 210 212 4900 f 210 212 4990 www.artpace.org

gallery notes

THE HUDSON (SHOW)ROOM

Frances Stark

May 4 – July 16, 2006

Second Floor Landing

In and In, 2005

Mass mailers, linen tape and rice paper
Collection of Judith Roaman, New York, NY

Hudson (Show)Room (clockwise from entrance)

Unfortunately..., 2002

Casein, carbon and collage on canvas board
Collection of Michael and Sharon Young, Dallas, TX

50% Off, 2005

Printed matter, Chinese paper, linen tape, pencil
Courtesy of artist and MARC FOXX, Los Angeles, CA

A Particular Wavelength, 1998

Graphite, paper and linen tape
The Rachofsky Collection, Dallas, TX

The Unspeakable Compromise of the Portable Work of Art:

Number 11 in a series of 16, in lieu of my couch, 2001

Chair in parts, linen tape, casein on plaster
Courtesy of the artist and MARC FOXX, Los Angeles, CA

Paper Lantern (after Pae White), 2001

Carbon transfer on casein on canvas board
Collection of Sabine DuMont-Schuetze, Cologne, Germany

An Unfolding Soft Secretary with Finials, 2005

Paper, carbon paper, brads, linen tape, glassine, and silk ribbon

Courtesy of the artist and CRG Gallery, New York, NY

Hudson (Show)Room

Birds taking flight out of boxes meant to be destroyed at unknown time in future, 2003

Carbon, collage and casein on canvas board with nails
Courtesy of artist and MARC FOXX, Los Angeles, CA

Birds perched on boxes meant to be destroyed at unknown time in future, 2003

Carbon, collage and casein on canvas board with nails
Courtesy of artist and MARC FOXX, Los Angeles, CA

No, no, no, no, now, a place to sit, 2001

Carbon, casein and gouache on canvas board w/ nails
Courtesy of the artist and CRG Gallery, New York, NY

Birds Harmonizing on Upended table, 2001

Gouache, collage and casein on canvas board with nails
Collection of Rebecca and Alexander Stewart, Seattle, WA

Book in Progress and Book No Longer in Progress on Table on Chinese Style Rug, 2006

Books, mock-ups, rough drafts, laser print proofs, table, rug
Courtesy of the artist

Study for Paper Lantern (after Pae White), 2001

Collage and pencil on paper
Courtesy of Galerie Daniel Buchholz, Cologne, Germany

The world becomes a private world and shines like a rainbow, 1998

Carbon, oil, permanent marker on paper
The Rachofsky Collection, Dallas, TX

50% Off, 2005

Printed matter, Chinese paper, linen tape, pencil
Courtesy of artist and MARC FOXX, Los Angeles, CA

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