

For Immediate Release:

Tam Ochiai

13 September through 01 November 1997

Team Gallery will present a solo exhibition of paintings and videos by the artist Tam Ochiai from 13 September through 01 November 1997.

Greeting visitors at the gallery's entrance is a small television propped up on some plastic milk crates. On its screen plays a video of Ron Warren, the guardian of the front desk at Mary Boone's gallery. Tam Ochiai recorded Warren, a New York art world mainstay, over a prolonged period of time, repeatedly visiting the gallery with his camera squirreled away. The artist's goal was to capture Warren's famous non-plussed spirit and press it into service as a sort of phantom front desk attendant for this New York solo.

Across the gallery's walls are arranged over a hundred small paintings, each of them rendered sketchily onto grubby white grounds. The subject matter varies, although central to most of them is the artist's fascination — obsession you might say — with the French New Wave. Most of the paintings feature waif-like figures rendered in pencil and washes of faint acrylic paint, their surfaces covered with titles of films, names of movie stars, and conversational phrases. There is a minimal softness to this work, an intimate fragility that speaks of Ochiai's authorial position, one that provokes but oh-so-gently.

Also on view is a second video work: one in which the artist has spliced together the guitar solos from countless rock performances recorded on his television and arranged willy-nilly, one after the other. The same gestures, the same grimaces — all telescoping some kind of herculean effort — play across the faces of these guitar heroes in an epic compendium of musical machismo. The piece functions as a counter-point to the delicate, effeminate paintings.

Ochiai splits his time between Yokohama, Japan and the Lower East Side. This is his first solo exhibition at Team. The gallery is located at 527 West 26th Street, between Tenth and Eleventh Avenues, on the ground floor.

Gallery hours are Friday through Sunday, 11am to 7pm. For further information and/or photographs please call 212 279 9219.