

For Immediate Release:

Tam Ochiai

August

18 October through 23 November 2002

Team Gallery will present a solo exhibition of new work by Tam Ochiai from 18 October through 23 November 2002.

It is as easy to lose track of the fact that Tam Ochiai is a painter, as his deft hand with materials is often cloaked by modesty, his rendering displaying a limp-wristed authority. The artist is also never satisfied with merely hanging a painting show, instead insisting on the creation of an installation, usually relying on video and sound to conjure an atmosphere. Ochiai's interventions in the standardized protocol for painting shows are low-key: a piece of furniture brought from the studio, a musical instrument, a small sculpture.

In this latest solo, one of his video works does what videos usually do in Ochiai installations: it provides a splash of color and a break in the silence. Generally understood as Warholian duration pieces, the artist's videos are frequently compendiums of specific behaviors, repeated, such as people dying in New Wave films, or guitar solos from hair metal musicians. In *August*, the tape is of people laughing. Ochiai records these behaviors, transferring the images from one VHS machine to another, his edits rudimentary. And, like most of the artist's videos, the finished work is meant to be looked at, as much as looked away from.

Sprinkled here and there are small, pastel-colored balls made from Crayola modeling compound, each hand painted by the artist. The subtlety and scarce distribution of the installation elements is mirrored on the painting's surfaces, where sparsely placed pencil markings, writings, ballpoint pen and dollops of paint share the image space with overs-sized human figures. In the artist's DUAL paintings — two of which are on view here — his faux-naïf figures are split down the center with differing palettes chosen to color-in their left and right sides. In *Afternoons*, Ochiai's largest painting to date, a girl reposes under a tree whose fruits mimic the colored balls distributed throughout the gallery.

Tam Ochiai's new work continues exploring the themes he's been working with for the past decade: the inheritance of Pop Art, the hegemony of European culture (especially in filmmaking) and the abandon of childhood. Ochiai has been reviewed in *The New York Times*, *The Village Voice*, *The New Yorker*, *TimeOut New York*, *Tema Celeste*, *FlashArt International*, *Paper Magazine* and *Bijutsu Techo*. He's been the subject of monographic exhibitions in Tokyo, Brussels, Milan, Stockholm and Berlin. He was included in *Painting at the Edge of the World* at the Walker Art Center, *The Bastard Kids of Drella, Part 9* at Dijon's L'Consortium and in *Dark Mirrors of Japan* at the De Appel Foundation in Amsterdam.

This is Ochiai's third 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 Tuesday through Saturday, 10am to 6pm. For further information and/or photographs please call 212 279 9219.