

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Sara VanDerBeek

Of Ruins and Light

November 12 – December 23, 2010

Opening reception November 12th, 6-8 p.m.

Altman Siegel is pleased to present the first West Coast solo exhibition by artist Sara VanDerBeek. "Of Ruins and Light" opens on November 12th, and is comprised of selections from two new bodies of work by the New York based artist. VanDerBeek will present "Song of Myself," one of three installations of photographs currently on view as part of her solo exhibition "To Think of Time" at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York. This series will be complimented by several new large works, which explore form as both a metaphor and an embodiment of memory, time and the artist's process.

In this exhibition VanDerBeek expands her studio practice to include photographs captured on location. Acting out of a desire to both document and interpret the current transitional moment in American culture and the evolving economic recession, VanDerBeek has traveled in the past year to Detroit, California and most recently to New Orleans and Baltimore. These trips have informed and influenced the work for this exhibition while they have also provided the artist with an opportunity to reflect upon the collective if violent nature of our history and the methods through which we as a nation have come to understand our current existence.

The multi-part installation "Song of Myself" is inspired by Walt Whitman's shifting compendium "Leaves of Grass." VanDerBeek draws parallels to Whitman's meditation on time, both momentary and endless, the wonder and ultimate brutality of its consequences, and beauty and ruination as metaphors for life and death. This deeply personal series addresses individual history and the fragmentation of memory. Several of the works in this series are inspired by found objects from the artist's family home, which are then paired with images of specific places that speak to a larger community, invoking the multitude of personal histories that contribute to the greater continuum of human civilization.

Sara VanDerBeek has exhibited extensively. "To Think of Time" her solo show at the Whitney Museum of American Art runs through December 5th. She was featured in "New Photography" at MOMA New York and at the Tang Museum, Saratoga Springs, New York in 2009. She has had solo exhibitions at The Approach, London and D'Amelio Terras, NY. She is currently working on an upcoming show at the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles and Metro Pictures, New York.

For more information please contact Altman Siegel at 415-576-9300 or info@altmansiegel.com