

**Immediate Release**

## **GEO**

**Michael Bell-Smith, Barbara Probst, Diana Puntar and Sterling Ruby**

**January 8 to February 12, 2005**

**Opening reception: Saturday, January 8, 6.00 - 8.30 pm**

**Gallery hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 11.00 am - 6.00 pm**

Foxy Production announces **GEO**, a group exhibition of drawing, photography, sculpture and video that integrate geometry as an element of exploration and contemplation. With references to earlier representations of the sphere or grid, these works engage with Modernism's utopian, historical, or existential themes in divergent, yet equally compelling ways. **GEO** reflects an evolving contemporary interest in the conflict between individual expression and controlling networks.

Exploring space, movement and time through the use of videogame architecture, **Michael Bell-Smith's** digital animations fuse new and recent technologies within a compelling landscape of ideas. In *Top of the World*, the viewer experiences phantasmic shifts of scale and abrupt ninety-degree movements of perspective, while encountering pulsing flowcharts, suburban tracts, and rapidly floating clouds. In *Keep on Moving (Don't Stop)*, a lone character attempts to escape from his imprisoned life. Each time he seems to have transcended the controlling frame around him, a zoom out reveals him enclosed once more. **Barbara Probst's** black and white photograph, *Exposure #20 N.Y.C., 122 Duane Street, 05.12.03, 4:37 p.m.*, captures a pair of identical twins, unnervingly looking in different directions while a sphere hovers above them. With its combination of an unexpected object and image-doubling, the work raises questions about perspective, the role of the camera, and the interpretation of identity. **Diana Puntar's** sculpture, *Untitled*, embodies a futuristic, pixelated structure that alludes to historical and allegorical themes. Within a minimalist palette, the work's flaming red and orange tiles recall the coals of a fire, while their mirrored counterparts disrupt the work's objectness and allow the viewer to contemplate a fractured self. Puntar's work evokes archetypal experiences within an ultramodern form. **Sterling Ruby's** photograph and works on paper present geometric structures destabilized and stained by drops of blood or organic growths; alternatively, these residues may actually be imprisoned by the all-encompassing grids on which they lie. Ruby's works in **GEO** present a tension between the corporeal and the emotional, and the tyranny of logic and control.

**Michael Bell-Smith** (1978) holds a BA in Semiotics from Brown University. Exhibitions include: *The Infinite Fill Show*, Foxy Production, New York (2004); *[plug.in]*, Basel (2003); *FACT*, Liverpool, England (2003); *Eyebeam Gallery*, New York (2002). **Barbara Probst** (1964) holds a BFA from the Akademie der Bildende Künste, Munich and an MFA from the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, Germany. Exhibitions include: *Murray Guy*, New York (2004) (solo); *Museum of Contemporary Photography*, Chicago, IL (2004); *Kunstverein Cuxhaven*, Germany (2002) (solo); *Photography after Photography* (traveled to Fotomuseum Winterthur, Switzerland; the Finnish Museum of Photography, Helsinki; the Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia, PA; and other venues (1995-1997)). **Diana Puntar** (1967) holds a BA from the University of Maryland, College and a MFA from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Exhibitions include: *Participant*, New York (upcoming, 2005) (solo); *SamSon Gallery*, Boston (2004); *Space 101*, Brooklyn NY (2003); *Luhning Augustine*, New York (2003); *Bellwether*, New York (2001); *PS122*, New York (2000); *The ICA*, Boston (1999). **Sterling Ruby** (1972) holds a BFA from The Art Institute of Chicago and is currently an MFA candidate at the Art Center College of Design, Pasadena. Exhibitions include *Ronald Feldman Fine Arts*, New York (2004); *Wight Gallery / UCLA*, LA (2004); *David Kordansky Gallery*, LA (2004); *LFL*, New York (2004); *Southfirst*, Brooklyn NY (2004); *Foxy Production*, New York (2004) (solo); *Tate Britain*, London (2003); *The Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art*, Chicago (2003).

**Upcoming at FP:**

**February 15, 16, 17, 2005, 7.00 pm: Public Address by ALLISON SMITH - The second installment of 'DARE', a performance series curated by Lauren Cornell**

**March 1 to April 2, 2005: BEN JONES**

**For further information or high resolution images, please contact Kathy Kenny or John Thomson: t 212 239 2758 - info@foxyproduction.com**