

Alogon

May 10 – June 7, 2008

In *Alogon*, artist Gaylen Gerber presents ten artworks, those of artists Nancy Ford, Charles Irvin, José Lerma, Autumn Ramsey, and Scott Reeder and Tyson Reeder.

Gerber is interested in addressing ideas surrounding perception and particularly the role of context in perception. Gerber's own work often acts as the contextual ground for the expression of other artists. For this exhibition, Gerber continues to examine the role of the contextual ground in the interpretation of art and also specifically foregrounds the background as an expressive element itself.

In previous exhibitions Gerber has been interested in the normative aspects of visual language: the way we, as part of a shared culture, accept certain forms, colors, etc. as institutional, or we take them for granted as neutral common ground. These visual norms act as grounds for all other forms of expression and we use them to register difference and create meaning. Gerber's own work is often positioned so that it highlights these relationships by representing the frequently invisible normative aspects of visual language, suggested by their "neutral" gray color as well as by the casting of other artworks as the figurative elements against this ground.

In this exhibition, Gerber consciously attempts to draw parallels rather than distinctions between the contextual ground of the exhibition and the artworks that are differentiated against it. Aspects of a number of artworks are extended into the context of the exhibition with the result that many distinctions between elements feel porous. For example, when we try to "see" Scott Reeder's polychrome artwork *Untitled*, everything else, including the exhibition context that would normally become its background remains at least partially in the foreground of our understanding. Conversely, when we focus on another artwork in the exhibition it's difficult to distinguish exactly where Reeder's work and the background end and where the other artwork begins. By lessening the differences that we normally take for granted between expressive elements and the background against which we customarily view them, Gerber draws attention to the often invisible role of norms in comprehending difference.

Recognizing the shifting relationships between expression and its ground is at the heart of *Alogon*. Focusing our attention on these relationships showcases the fragility and conditional quality of both elements and draws attention to a central aspect of perception, which is that to perceive something at all you must first be able to distinguish it as distinct from its background.

For more information contact Alogon Gallery alogongalleryinfo@gmail.com.