

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Benjamin Butler
Forest's Edge
12 May through 18 June 2005

Team Gallery will present a solo show of new paintings and drawings by Benjamin Butler. Entitled "Forest's Edge", the exhibition will run from the 12th of May through the 18th of June 2005. The gallery is located at 527 West 26th Street, between Tenth and Eleventh Avenues, on the ground floor.

Butler's modest project, begun some five years ago, was to somehow re-cast the landscape painting within a contemporary vernacular that would reference such diverse modes as psychedelia, op-art, kitsch and the comic book, while remaining moored within its traditional contemplative form. More specifically, Butler's intent was to craft a body of work that would exist at the edge of lyrical possibility and rigorous structuralism. These concerns are crystallized in the eight paintings, five drawings and two objects that make up this exhibition.

In small paintings, most of them measuring 16 x 20 inches, Butler had mapped out a number of plausible landscape variations which explored both intense, highly idiosyncratic color contrasts alongside a panoply of mark-making techniques. Both Butler's sincerity and his diversity have migrated to this new, more ambitious body of work in which his paintings have been scaled up to 48 x 72 inches. The horizontals and verticals central to his chosen genre are now joined by a number of stridently geometric gestures in pictures that are contradictorily placed against others that display instead a more organic, pseudo-pointillist approach.

Butler's paintings are paired here with color-less drawings, made of graphite on paper, which have been tightly constructed by lines that create labyrinthine optically charged areas. Quiet and unassuming at first view, a closer inspection reveals an almost psychotic intensity which manifests itself as a complete disconnect from the natural world. In addition, two paintings are presented prone on their backs supported by low pedestals. These sculptural elements, titled Fields of Flowers, provide viewers with an almost aerial perspective on a fluorescent realm.

This is Benjamin Butler's third solo show at Team. Butler has also had one-person exhibitions with Tomio Koyama in Tokyo, Lisa Ruyter in Vienna, Kenny Schachter in London and with Greener Pastures in Toronto. He has participated in group shows with Thaddaeus Ropac in Salzburg, Groeflin Maag Galerie in Basel and Karyn Lovegrove in Los Angeles. Butler is currently included in Greater New York at PS1.

For further information and/or photographs please call the gallery at 212.279.9219. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am to 6pm.