

ALTMAN SIEGEL

GALLERY S/F

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

see: Abstraction (disambiguation)

Sara VanDerBeek, Shinpei Kusanagi and Garth Weiser

July 17th – September 19th, 2009

Reception September 10th: 5:30 – 7:30 pm

Altman Siegel Gallery is pleased to present '*see: Abstraction (disambiguation)*' an exhibition of work by Sara VanDerBeek, Shinpei Kusanagi and Garth Weiser. This will be the first time all three artists have exhibited in San Francisco.

This exhibition highlights three artists who present different methods of abstraction both in painting and photography. While abstraction is a seemingly general term, all three of these artists present very specific approaches and goals in their work. Abstraction is often defined in the negative, as an absence of recognizable imagery; the works in this exhibition propose otherwise. Whether striving for fragmented associations or exploring referential colors and designs '*see: Abstraction (disambiguation)*' aims to clarify each practice by comparing each artist's work to the other two artists in the exhibition.

Sara VanDerBeek's photographs of sculptural assemblages and two-dimensional collages conflate the mediums of sculpture and photography. They depict suggestive fragments defined by light, space and broken images. In addition to experimentation with material, pattern and image, the photographs play with reflection, light, and dimension. The combination of these elements creates a meditation on the multifarious physical and cultural connections between them.

Sara VanDerBeek lives and works in New York. She is currently exhibiting in an exhibition at the Tang Museum, Sarasota Springs, and will be featured in the *New Photography* show at MOMA, NY in September, and in *The Reach of Realism* at MOCA, Miami in December, 2009.

Shinpei Kusanagi paints dynamic yet understated abstract landscapes. Kusanagi leaves the canvas raw, and lets simple strokes of pencil line and acrylic create figures, space and movement. Gestural white lines reference glass reflections and falling snow as if the viewer is seeing a landscape moving rapidly by from a car window. Efficient marks imply mountains, clouds, sidewalks and telephone lines, and the overall compositions remain spare and abstract.

Shinpei Kusanagi lives and works in Tokyo. He currently has a solo exhibition at Taka Ishii Gallery in Kyoto. He will have a solo show at Altman Siegel in November 2009.

Garth Weiser experiments with mark making and subverts traditional painting by stretching the materiality of the medium. Expanding upon the underlying use of the grid, he mixes acrylic and oils, lets the paint bleed and pool, and contrasts this with intricate, rectilinear, graphic detail. His influences are drawn from popular culture, and modern and contemporary art. His latest series of primarily black-and-white paintings take their cues from the graphic designs of pop and corporate culture.

Garth Weiser lives in New York, and is currently working in Vienna. Recent exhibitions include: *Recent Acquisitions*, MCA, Chicago, a solo show at Casey Kaplan, NY, 2009, and *Destroying Athens*, The Athens Biennial, Greece, 2007.

For more information on the exhibition or the artists, please contact the gallery at 415-576-9300 or look on our website, www.altmansiegel.com.

Please note: Altman Siegel will be closed from July 25th – August 24th for summer holiday. We will be accessible by email during this time: info@altmansiegel.com.