

Press Release

ERIC WESLEY

Opening January 20th, 2012 6-8pm

“2 new works”

Bortolami gallery is pleased to present Eric Wesley's third solo show at the gallery.

The first work, “The Improbability of Intentionally Creating Shock”, is comprised of four individually presented elements constituting an elaborate machine. The artist confronts issues of success and failure, and initiates a conversation about the nature of “shock” by literally attempting to “shock” the audience. The primal intent of the work involves one person, the artist, touching another, the viewer: an electrical and biological exchange of energy. The first element is an exaggerated rubber band acting as power supply and storage of energy. Then there is the anchoring system that fixes the machine to a stable point within the space. The center piece of the apparatus is a 200-pound solid-steel chrome-plated square wheel. The final element is the point at which static electricity interacts with the observer, creating a tickling mild zap, or simply the sense of anticipation. The shock is merely implied and not made explicit, derived from physical form and phenomenon, or lack thereof.

Presented in the smaller gallery, the second work is a temporary room which demonstrates a paradox of time and space. A three-by-five foot representation of the continent of Europe floats in the room. The likeness of the EU is rendered in great detail according to multiple sources of information. The artist trusted established topological maps, images from space (NASA, ESA), as well as instinct and memory. The viewer walks into this room in New York City from 10am to 6pm to encounter the waning of daylight into darkness of Europe, designed to accurately portray the present reality on the other side of the Atlantic.

Eric Wesley was born in Los Angeles, California in 1973, where he continues to live and work. Wesley has held solo exhibitions in galleries internationally as well as at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles and Foundation Morra Greco, Naples, Italy. Wesley has participated in group shows at the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles; Musée d'Art Contemporain, Bordeaux, France; Fundación/Colección, Jumex, Mexico; Museo d'Arte, Benevento, Italy; The Prague Biennial in 2007; Institute of Contemporary Art, London; P.S.1, New York; and the Studio Museum in Harlem.

For more information please contact the gallery at info@bortolamigallery.com.

Biography

Eric Wesley

Born 1973, Los Angeles, CA.

Lives and works in Los Angeles, CA

Education

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Co- founder of MSA^ (Mountain School of Art), Los Angeles, CA

Solo Exhibitions

2011

The Same 'Ol New Frontier, China Art Objects Galleries, Los Angeles

2010

D'Cartes Blanche and New Paintings, Bortolami Gallery, New York

2009

New Realistic Figures, Maureen Paley, London

2008

Ship Shape Shit Shelf and the Empfang Box, Feurig59, Berlin

2007

Spaference Room, Bortolami Gallery, New York

Spafice, Foundation Morra Greco, Naples, Italy

2006

Audi, Meyer-Riegger Gallery, Karlsruhe, Germany

You say Tomato, I say Tomato, Galleria Fonti, Naples, Italy

Eric Wesley, China Art Objects Galleries, Los Angeles

MOCA FOCUS: Eric Wesley, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles

2005

Bowie-Van Valen Gallery, Amsterdam, Netherlands

2004

Pico Youth Center, China Art Objects Galleries, Los Angeles

I love WW2, Locust Projects, Miami, FL

2003

Jeans Theory, Statements, Art Basel, Basel, Switzerland

2002

Metro Pictures, New York

Enchilada "The Endless Burrito", Meyer-Reigger Galerie, Karlsruhe, Germany

Ouchi, Galleria Franco Noero, Torino, Italy

2001

Two Story Clocktower, CalTech, Pasadena, CA

2000

Kicking Ass, China Art Objects Galleries, Los Angeles

1999

Camper, China Art Objects Galleries, Los Angeles

Group Exhibitions

2011

Making Histories – Changing Views of the Collection, Temporary Stedelijk Museum 3, Amsterdam

BigMinis: Fetishes of Crisis, musée d'art contemporain, Bordeaux, France

2010

The Artist's Museum, MOCA Geffen Contemporary, Los Angeles, CA

The Inauguration of China Art Objects in Culver City, Los Angeles

Les enfants terribles, Fundacion Coleccion Jumex, Mexico

RE-DRESSING, Bortolami Gallery, New York, NY

Video Journeys, Cottage Home, Los Angeles

2009

Second Nature: Dean Valentine Collection, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles

1999, China Art Objects, Los Angeles

2008

The Light of the Virgo, China Art Objects, Los Angeles

Los Angeles Confidential, Centre d'Art du Parc Saint Léger, Pougues-les-Eaux

Amateurs, CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco

ITALIA ITALIE ITALIEN ITALY WLOCHY, ARCOS Museo d'Arte ,Benevento,Italy

Globetrotters, 410 Cottage Home, Los Angeles, Curated by Katie Brennan

Sand- Meaning and Metaphor, Parrish Museum, New York, NY

2007

Prague Biennial, Prague, Czech Republic

Milieu, Lizabeth Oliveria, Los Angeles

Angles Gallery, Los Angeles

One Foot High and Rising, Balmoral Gallery, Venice, CA

Darling, Take Fountain, Kalfayan Gallery, Greece

Substance & Surface, Bortolami, New York City, NY

2006

Axis of Praxis, Midway Contemporary Art, Minneapolis, MN

Design-O-mite, Black Dragon Society, Los Angeles

Alien Nation, Institute of Contemporary Art, London, England

The Gold Standard, P.S. 1 Contemporary Art Center, Long Island City, NY

Survivor, Bortolami Dayan, New York, NY

2005

Closing Down: Thanks, Bortolami Dayan, New York

A Walk to Remember, Organized by Jens Hoffmann, Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions, Los Angeles, CA

100 Artists See God, Curated by John Baldessari and Meg Cranston, Organized by ICA, London, England

Installations, I-20 Gallery, New York, NY

Having Differences. I-20 Gallery, New York, NY

2004

Whitney Biennial, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York

3 fireplaces and 2 bathtubs, Museum für angewandte Kunst (MAK), Vienna

2003

Fade (1990-2003), Curated by Malik Gaines, Craft and Folk Art Museum at the Luckman Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

Works for Giovanni, China Art Objects Galleries, Los Angeles, CA

More Boots = Many Routes, Eric Wesley, Lee O'Connor, Ryan Doolan, Transmission Gallery, Glasgow, Scotland

New Space! New Show!, Galeria Franco Noero, Turin, Italy

Adios Pendejos, OPA: Oficina Para Proyectos de Arte, Guadelajara, Mexico

Eduardo Sarabia and Eric Wesley, Sutton Lane, London

Adios Pendejos, OPA: Oficina Para Proyectos de Arte, Guadelajara, Mexico

2002

Drive By: Nine Artists from Los Angeles, Reynolds Gallery, Virginia

2001

Freestyle, Studio Museum, Harlem, New York, Santa Monica Museum of Art

Snapshot: New Art From Los Angeles, UCLA Hammer Museum, Los Angeles

Museum of Contemporary Art, Miami, Florida

Purloined, Artists Space, New York, September 6 – October 13

Circles 3: Silver Lake Crossings, Zentrum Fur Kunst und Mediatechnologie, Karlsruhe, Germany. Curated by Christoph Keller.

Drive: Power, Progress, Desire, Govett Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth, New Zealand.

Curated by Gregory Burke.

Group Show, Metro Pictures, New York

2000

Young and Dumb, ACME, Los Angeles. Curated by Pentti Monkkonen.

1999

L.A. Edge Festival, Los Angeles, organized by Simon Watson.

1998

I-Candy, Rosamund Felsen Gallery, Santa Monica

Brent Petersen Gallery, Los Angeles.