

## BORTOLAMI

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### Bortolami presents Tom Burr's *deep wood drive*

NEW YORK, NY – Bortolami Gallery is pleased to present Tom Burr's second exhibition with the gallery, *deep wood drive*, from March 7<sup>th</sup> to April 26<sup>th</sup>, with a reception for the artist on March 7<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 8pm. In *deep wood drive* Burr continues his visual exploration of the physical and psychological dimension of objects, and the fantasies we project upon their surfaces. Integral to the exhibition are works from the new series of "Cloud Paintings," which are wooden wall panels covered with woolen blankets meticulously arranged and pinned to convey states of comfort and discomfort, order and disarray. These works are shown alongside large floor-bound sculptural tableau that engage notions of containment, biography, and protectionism in the context of public view. Also included is a collage of a controversial Tennessee Williams interview in *Playboy* from April 1973 in which the American playwright ruminates on sexuality identity.

Tom Burr emerged in the 1990s as an important new voice in the dialogue of institutional critique, exploring the politics of minimalism and politics at large that were at the forefront of artistic and social concerns during the period. In an *ArtForum* article in 2008 Joshua Decker described the artist's work as "engaging in a lively and erudite reconsideration of the historical conventions of site-specificity; the politics of public and private domains; the architecture of social space; the aesthetics of design and fashion; Minimalist and Post-Minimalist legacies; and the paradoxical nature of the postmodernist critique of originality." Burr is renowned for his interest in the conceptual investigation that questions the way in which identity is both constructed and constrained by society and its physical spaces.

Burr describes the "Cloud Paintings" as "imprints, instead of having the neutral associations that various materials hold: canvas, fabric, paint, ink, etc., the blankets hover solidly between being a utilitarian object and a material that conforms to the work of a painting. Or, as I've said before, a painting that is impersonating a sculpture, or inversely, a sculpture impersonating a painting."

Another highlight of the exhibition is a large eight-foot black metal cage, a theme that the artist has employed before, entitled *baited like beasts*. It will sit in the center of the gallery's main room, both blocking the space and framing it. There is no door to the cage, instead there are three openings, cut outs, or windows through the bars. Within these cuts will be hanging, lying, extending and protruding electric lamps.

**Tom Burr (b. 1963)** has exhibited at some of the world's foremost galleries and institutions including The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; The Sculpture Center, New York; FRAC, Champagne-Ardenne, France; Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Basel; Louisiana Museum, Denmark; The Hayward Gallery, London and The New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York, amongst others. Burr was a visiting Critic at Yale School of Art's Graduate Program in Sculpture. His work is included in prestigious public and private collections around the world.

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**TOM BURR**  
**deep wood drive**  
**7 March - 26 April, 2012**  
**Main Gallery**



**Tom Burr**

*Baited like Beasts (a moon viewing platform)*

2012

Steel, hanging globe light, wooden chair

96 x 96 x 85 inches

243.8 x 243.8 x 215.9 cm

Inv# TB4940



**Tom Burr**

*Berlin Blue*

2012

Wool blankets and upholstery tacks on plywood

72 x 72 x 3 inches

182.9 x 182.9 x 7.6 cm

Inv# TB4914



**Tom Burr**

*Double Hung Window*

2012

Wool blankets and upholstery tacks on plywood

Inv# TB4917



**Tom Burr**

*Rectangled Restraint*

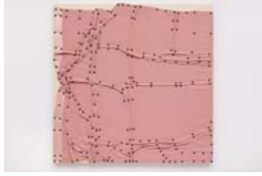
2012

Stained plywood, used shutters

72 x 48 x 14 inches

182.9 x 121.9 x 35.6 cm

Inv# TB4944



**Tom Burr**

*Untitled Pink Piece*

2012

Wool blanket and upholstery tacks on plywood

72 x 72 x 3 inches

182.9 x 182.9 x 7.6 cm

Inv# TB4899



**Tom Burr**

*his personal effects (black, one)*

2012

Men's t-shirt, upholstery tacks and wood

15 x 15 inches

38.1 x 38.1 cm

Inv# TB4918



**Tom Burr**

*his personal effects (black, three)*

2012

Men's t-shirt, upholstery tacks and wood

15 x 15 inches

38.1 x 38.1 cm

Inv# TB4923



**Tom Burr**

*Undiagnosed Blue Mood*

2012

Wool blanket and upholstery tacks on plywood

72 x 72 x 3 inches

182.9 x 182.9 x 7.6 cm

Inv# TB4916

## 2nd Gallery



**Tom Burr**

*Stanton Street, between Norfolk and Suffolk*

2012

Wool blanket and upholstery tacks on plywood

72 x 72 x 3 inches

182.9 x 182.9 x 7.6 cm

Inv# TB4943



**Tom Burr**

*his personal effects (long sleeve, blue)*

2012

Men's sweatshirt, upholstery tacks and wood

15 x 37 inches

38.1 x 94 cm

Inv# TB4941



**Tom Burr**

*Playboy, April, 1973*

2012

plywood; magazine pages; steel push pins

14 x 84 x 3 inches (each)

35.6 x 213.4 x 7.6 cm (each)

Inv# TB4924



**Tom Burr**

*An Orange Echo*

2012

Plywood, mirrored plexiglas, used theater seats

Inv# TB4939