

HP GARCIA GALLERY

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GUDJON BJARNASON – **SquARE zERo**
Painting, sculpture & video installation

Dates: November 14, 2007 – January 19, 2008



HP Garcia Gallery is pleased to present the solo exhibition **SquARE zERo** featuring a new painting series and two sculpture installations by internationally recognized Icelandic visual artist and architect Gudjon Bjarnason, as well as a video by Karen Peters and Gudjon Bjarnason. Renowned art critic Thomas McEvilley wrote the essay for the 30 page exhibition catalogue, setting Bjarnason's work in an art historical context.

Described in turn as enigmatic, convulsive, dynamic, surprising, and elegant Gudjon Bjarnason's sculptural works are created from exploded materials comprised of steel components such as profile beams and girders. The major piece **MurMur zERo-desert** (2006), comprises 40 welded steel squares (each 31.6" x 31.6") some of which have remained intact, others have been detonated to various degrees resulting in an array of disfiguration and complete pulverization.

Bjarnason is fascinated with the merging of the political and the poetic, geometrical abstraction and organic figuration, construction and destruction, delicacy and violence, the beautiful and the monstrous. There is a markedly strong performative aspect in the process of making these sculptures. The artist creates dramatic mis-en-scenes in the setting up of his materials which, when shattered, are transformed drastically through the use of controlled, yet unpredictable exploding forces.

Also included in this exhibition will be Bjarnason's large-scale paintings on plastic canvas as well as **BIUe BlUe EmbryONics-SquARE** (2007), a new series of 80 paintings of acrylic print and paint on square plastic canvases, (each 19.7" x 19.7"), depicting what the artist has termed "shadows" of cataclysmic events. The abstract marks in these prepossessing works are derived from traces of TV-news explosions and bombardments. They are then digitally re-iterated, superimposed and layered by the artist. The final results are ghostly template-like images that seem to skid along the painting surfaces, which are suffused with a contemplative, haunting quality.

The video work **zONgo-MOI ET MOI** by New York based dancer and videographer Karen Peters and Gudjon Bjarnason consists of footage taken from four strategically placed cameras to film their live performance during Bjarnason's exhibition at SUNY Old Westbury College in September of 2007. Through a series of complex superimpositions, the video transforms the kaleidoscopic-like performance into a surreal black and white wonderland, infused with an impending sense of unpredictable danger.

SquARE zERo is the second solo show of Gudjon Bjarnason at HP Garcia Gallery. The artist's recent projects include large-scale solo shows at the Reykjavik Municipal Art Museum (Iceland), Snug Harbor Cultural Center (S.I., NY), and Amelie A. Wallace Gallery at SUNY Old Westbury College (L.I., NY).

HP Garcia Gallery is located at 580 Eighth Avenue, 7th floor, @ 38th Street in Manhattan. The gallery is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday, from 1 to 6 pm. For more information and visuals, please contact the gallery at the number listed below, or visit hpgarciagallery.com.