

## **Parker' s Box**

Opening reception: Friday June 2, 2000 6-8

Exhibition: June 3 to July 3

(and by appointment through July)

Gallery hours: Friday through Monday 12-6pm

Parker's Box has chosen to launch its activity by focussing on a number of basic but recurrent questions that seem to have retained their relevance for artists of different generations. Issues like: the limits of a medium; the criteria used to evaluate the successes and failures of an artwork; the elements at stake in the intricate relationship between tradition and context. Those are the questions that map the territory in which the exhibition program of Parker's Box intends to situate itself, as a way of creating room for critical dialogue between works, artists, critics and curators.

The works of the artists included in this inaugural exhibition, **Beatriz Barral**, **Willard Boepple**, **Maggie Kleinpeter**, **Janine Lariviere**, **Rachel Poignant** and **Joshua Stern**, all address some of these issues through different personal reflections about the moment in which the artistic process renders irrelevant the "specificity of the medium".

**Williard Boepple's** *Room* puts into question the very idea of sculpture. Our identification of this structure as a house is taken here as an opportunity for reflection upon the principle of function, which separates an actual house from this particular one, art from non-art. Similar questions appear in the context of the works of **Beatriz Barral**. The choice of the materials and the non-painterly process that originate these objects, redefine the idea of painting as a surface constituted by a visible solid that is used as a ground on which the elements are not painted but constitute the object itself. In *The Winter's Tale*, Shakespeare asserts that 'nature' might mean 'the visible world' and, by extension, the principle that holds that world together. **Janine Lariviere** offers an account of the complex in-between space in which the questions of representation transcend the medium of photography and painting, the zone where the visible world is no more a matter of perception, but a result of the artistic process. The role of the senses also appears in the paintings of **Maggie Kleinpeter**. The artist makes each painting's capacity to signify depend on its ability to communicate meaning through a particular choice of materials, textures and colors. In these works, the fusion between a desire to create a visual vocabulary contrast with an awareness about the politics of the medium. Setting up objects or spaces, as in the case of **Joshua Stern's** virtual maquettes of a domestic space, in opposition to human consciousness, we tend to think that they are free of the partiality and distortion that appear in his spited anonymous portraits. But the constructed scenarios and figures of Joshua Stern do something more than bringing the subject to these field of questions about the medium, they perform a very personal view of the boundaries between the objective truth ready for representation, or emulation, and the subjective sphere introduced by the merging between a person's portrait and ideas of identity, psychology and subjectivity.

**Additional press information:**

The curatorial program of Parker's Box will be the fruit of a collaboration having strong links with international projects both in the US and abroad.

The artists whose recent works we have chosen to present in our inaugural exhibition are from different backgrounds and generations. **Maggie Kleinpeter** and **Janine Lariviere** are 2000 graduates from New York City MFA programs. **Beatriz Barral** lives and works in Madrid and was a participant in the International Studio Program in New York. Her work was shown recently at the John Weber Gallery. **Rachel Poignant** is from Normandy, France where she had a solo exhibition at the Contemporary Art Center of Caen. She was recently a resident at the international Triangle studios in Marseille. **Willard Boepple's** work has been consistently visible both in the US and overseas. For a number of years, he was represented in New York by the Andre Emmerich Gallery, and has shown more recently at Tricia Collins Contemporary Art. **Joshua Stern** is a Williamsburg-based artist whose most recent solo exhibition was at the Galerie du Tableau in Marseille, France. He has agreed to exhibit at Parker's Box as his first New York showing for several years.

Parker's Box wishes to warmly thank all of the artists for participating in our inaugural exhibition, and for the energy they have invested in our project.