

Parker's Box 193 Grand Street Brooklyn NY 11211

Parker's Box is delighted to announce a solo exhibition by:

Tim Laun

Opening Reception, Friday March 22, 6-9 pm

Exhibition dates: March 22 – April 22, 2002

Gallery hours: Friday to Monday 1 to 7 pm

Tim Laun's subject matter often appears to be exploring the territory of Americana. In the recent group show *Phoenix, NY* at Parker's Box, Laun transformed the corporate logos of Disney and Jeep by pasting them on top of themselves to make new drawing forms which nevertheless retained their uncanny and blatant familiarity.

Tim Laun is clearly interested in the way the contents of our world are often easily stylized, perhaps in order to be served back to us for renewed consumption. In the current show, he explores elements of his and our relationship with that most quintessentially American of sports: American football. Two distinct projects are presented here, fused together by their common theme. *Green Bay/Tampa Bay* has its foundations in a video proposing two simultaneous views of the same football game. One version is taken from the TV broadcast, and includes all the glitz of TV football and recurrent commercial breaks, while the other, filmed from the stand, shows the hometown fan's view. Apart from the obvious, and interesting effect of seeing the players hang out and fidget on the field, while waiting for unseen commercials to air, the simplicity of this piece inevitably proposes a comparison between the world *as seen on TV* and the reality of the football fan rooting for his team on a freezing afternoon in deepest America.

The symmetry of this piece is of course significant in expressing these parallel worlds, but as such it is also a compositional and symbolic device present in most of Laun's work. His latest iris prints are mirror images of monochromatic, blurry views of football players, isolated and extracted from the exact same moment in the simultaneous videotapes. The symmetry of these works transform the players into elements of a *painterly* composition, facilitated by the removal of anything extraneous: team colors, background, sharpness etc.

The second project in this exhibition is similarly both *painterly* and symbolic. A small, sneak preview of *Kiel Raiders* was already seen in the exhibition *Phoenix, NY* in which Laun presented two mascot logos representing his High School football team. The first, an aggressive cartoon native American, was deemed racially "offensive" by the school and Laun, at age 18 won the competition to draw a new logo – his *screaming barbarian*. Here, Laun pokes fun at himself for producing a new mascot probably as dubious as the one it replaced, while at the same time pursuing his investigation of the structures set up to channel our energies and desires, each one a further cog to be oiled in order that the wheels of state keep turning smoothly...