

Parker's Box 193 Grand Street Brooklyn NY 11211

**Parker's Box is delighted to announce the opening of:**

*Phoenix, NY*  
**Four Walls Projects, Tim Laun, Joyce  
Pensato, Joshua Stern**

**Opening Reception, Friday January 11, 6-9 pm**

Exhibition dates: January 12 – February 11, 2002

Gallery hours: Friday to Monday 1 to 7 pm

*It's coming to America first / the cradle of the best and the worst  
It's here they've got the range / and the machinery for change  
And it's here they've got the spiritual thirst*

From *Democracy* by Leonard Cohen, 1997

In this apparently forever changed America, there is much talk of renewal, rebirth, new attitudes, sensibilities and philosophies. It's easy to begin wondering, at this point, what kind of creature we are likely to behold, when the phoenix finally rises out of the ashes.

Of course, many artists are consistently involved in imagining or inventing parallel worlds, and at difficult times like these, those worlds suddenly seem to take on new pertinence. Some may seem to suggest models for change, while others may reveal fears, premonitions or nostalgia that many of us feel in our relations with past, present and future.

Like the thinking behind the works presented in *Phoenix, NY* its curatorial reflection predates the recent events that have affected us all so much. It seemed like an interesting proposition to bring together artists whose work is clearly inspired and influenced by what America is, but which somehow rethinks its visual language, and in so doing sees things in a different light. Tim Laun and Joshua Stern have both previously shown their work at Parker's Box. **Tim Laun's** wall drawings discover new forms behind what is probably the subliminal power of familiar corporate logos, that he deconstructs by reversing, copying and pasting them into new motifs. **Joshua Stern's** new photographic works depict torch-bearing stick men that seem to evoke bad dreams of possible apocalypse. Such fears are somewhat allayed, however, by the humor afforded by both the intriguing techniques used to make this work, and the exaggerated intent of the pathetic protagonists! **Joyce Pensato**, who is well-known for her personalized gestural images of wild Disney characters, here steps into even more ambiguous territory, by focusing only on their eyes. These become both a drawing device, while also perhaps suggesting our hopes, fears and predicaments. Finally, the exhibition includes a collaborative work made by artists invited by **Four Walls Projects**, led by its founder, Mike Ballou. This work, which had to be cut out of one of the "Four Walls" to be transported to Parker's Box, is itself an evolving and subjective impression of Williamsburg, past, present (and perhaps future), as imagined by the personalized input of each of the numerous artists who worked on it. Idealized, hopeful, nostalgic, wishful or just plain false, the slow animation of this painting's progress looks set to continue throughout the duration of the exhibition. Artists who have so far contributed to this piece include: Michael Ballou, Dan Ford, John Bjerklie, Harry de Graaf, Matt Freedman, K.K.Kozik, Wouter Von Riesen, Kara Van Woerden, Ward Shelley, Anne Thulin, Julius Kozlowski, Jim Torok, Kurt Hoffman, Jeff Reimen, Alun Williams...

For further information please don't hesitate to contact the gallery at 718 388 2882 / [parkersbox@hotmail.com](mailto:parkersbox@hotmail.com)