

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lipstick Traces: Adam Schwartz, A Solo Show

November 29th- December 7th, 2008

Reception: Saturday, November 29th, 8 – 11 PM

Adam Schwartz's work as a whole explores a number of related concepts across a wide variety of media, including video, photography, drawing, painting and sculpture. His work deals with disasters and post-apocalyptic scenarios, and formally embraces a contrast between his own mistakes and the perfection of media images and historical myth.

The work in this series began online, as media photos posted on news sites. The traditional media critique of such images begins with the question of the aesthetics of violence. Schwartz was interested in borrowing these images already loaded with questions. He was also interested in the how a low resolution image falls apart, and how that affects the way we read information in photos.

The process used a function in Adobe Illustrator called LiveTrace. The visual result is often a slick, graphically reduced image divorced from its original context, composed of a series of vector shapes derived from the pixels in the original image. Schwartz then hand-colored each separate shape that made up the flames into shades of pink and purple. These "bubble-gum" colors undermined the aggression in the images by making frivolous and silly the action in the image. Finally, he hand-painted the resulting image onto paper. The images began to regain something of its relationship to the non-virtual world, however, now as a conversation about painting and mark-making instead of reportage. The image is a high-resolution picture, much like the sort traditional photography or academic painting emphasized, although now with a conceptually problematic low-resolution image as its source.

Sea and Space Explorations

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Gallery is open Sundays 1-5 PM and by appointment

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DIRECTIONS from Los Angeles: From the 5, take the 2 north. Take the Verdugo Road exit. Left onto Eagle Rock Boulevard. Right onto York Boulevard (major cross street is Armadale Boulevard).