



## ESTEBAN SABAR GALLERY

*www.estebansabar.com*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **“Interiors/Exteriors” Explores Environments’ Meanings in August Exhibit at Oakland’s Esteban Sabar Gallery**

Dates: August 2<sup>nd</sup> to September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2007

**OAKLAND, Calif. (July 17, 2007)** — Walls with stories, tense nature and apocalyptic cityscapes are explored in an exhibit entitled "Interiors/Exteriors" at Esteban Sabar Gallery from August 2<sup>nd</sup> to September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2007, featuring the paintings of Tracy West, Vivian Prinsloo and Scott Courtenay-Smith. An artists' reception will be held on Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, from 6pm to 9pm.

#### **TRACY WEST**

Creating rectangles from concrete, plaster and wood, Tracy West explores the tactile and metaphorical properties of walls.

While readily symbolizing the concealment of emotion, West's "walls" suggest stories modified through their retelling. With bumpy, weathered and reworked surfaces finished in various stains and metallic paints, narrative layers emerge as stories written and rewritten, becoming graceful compromises reached with weighty pasts.

While mortality is suggested through the walls' similarity to unearthed monuments or effaced tombstones, West's walls can be less profoundly understood as witnesses to private narratives, the remnant inner casings of under funded prisons or obsessively redecorated homes. Tragedies and redemptions can faintly be traced in Tracy West's telling, blank walls.

#### **VIVIAN PRINSLOO**

Vivian Prinsloo's oil on canvas paintings contain a dissonant quality of pastoral yet ominous landscapes.

While Prinsloo exploits hidden connections and patterns in the form of tensely complex natural forms, this doesn't account for the obscure, ominous narratives that her work frequently suggests in what should otherwise be warm, reassuring landscapes.

Her landscapes depict a place somewhere between natural harmony and subjective anxiety, capturing an ambiguous twilight world between reassurance and warning to bridge exterior and interior worlds.

#### **SCOTT COURTENAY-SMITH**

Cityscape painter Scott Courtenay-Smith draws upon Oakland scenes as sources to depict the familiar in a surreal, almost apocalyptic manner.

Bowed light posts skew perspective, blue skies fold upon their normally even blue dome, tops of trees fade smokily into the horizon and streetlights' fixtures seeming burn on fire rather than glow evenly from their center. At the same time, Courtenay-Smith combines realistic architectural elements with shadowy, displaced figures to suggest alert perceptions that accompany life in city streets.

**Estaban Sabar Gallery** is located at 480 23rd Street (*at Telegraph Avenue*), Oakland, California, 94612

Gallery hours are Monday, Thursday & Friday: 11am to 6pm; Saturday & Sunday: 12noon to 6pm; Tuesday and Wednesday: Closed.

For further information call 510/444-7411 or visit *www.estebansabar.com*.

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