

STEPHEN WIRTZ GALLERY

PRESS RELEASE

RICK ARNITZ

Backdrops: New Paintings

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ULRIKE PALMBACH

New Work

June 15-July 27, 2002

The STEPHEN WIRTZ GALLERY is pleased to announce the exhibitions of new paintings by RICK ARNITZ and new sculptural works by ULRIKE PALMBACH.

In the main gallery space we will exhibit richly layered paintings by Rick Arnitz that combine ideas of abstraction and figuration. Arnitz uses a roller, rather than a paintbrush, as his tool to cover his canvases. Whether vertical or horizontal, the width of his bands is determined by the size of roller he uses. Appearing abstract upon first glance, representational possibilities materialize between the undulating marks and hues. Arnitz draws upon widely ranging ideas about space, color and scale, as well as painting itself.

RICK ARNITZ (b.1949, St. Louis, MO) received his BA, MA, and MFA, from the University of California at Berkeley. Arnitz has had solo exhibitions at institutions such as San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and Galerie Zenit in Copenhagen. His work is included in several museum collections including San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and the Berkeley Art Museum.

In the second gallery space we are featuring works by German-born artist, Ulrike Palmbach. Palmbach's work explores the realm where our material world fails us and leaves us in uncertainty; where the promising meets the deceptive, the humorous meets the tragic, and the familiar becomes the unknown.

In Palmbach's newest work, she has created commonplace objects from unexpected materials. One installation depicts apple cores of various sizes and shapes, carved from scrap wood. Their rough and splintery texture evokes a conflicted juxtaposition between hardship and labor, and easy consumption. In another work, *Phone*, she has made a telephone from a soft blanket; far from being a symbol of our well functioning world, this universal tool for communication withdraws in on itself.

ULRIKE PALMBACH (b.1963, Sindelfingen, Germany) lives and works in San Francisco. She received her BFA from the San Francisco Art Institute. Prior to coming to the United States, Palmbach attended the Academy of Fine Arts in Berlin. Her work has been included in such exhibitions as *Bay Area Now* and *Flat File: Pierogi 2000* at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts and *Bestiary*, at the Armory Center for the Arts in Los Angeles.

For additional information please contact Ellen Mahoney at (415)433-6879. To view images from the exhibitions please visit our website: www.wirtzgallery.com.