

STEPHEN WIRTZ GALLERY

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TODD HIDO

Roaming

Exhibition dates: April 21-May 29, 2004

Opening reception for the artist Thursday, May 6, 2004, 5:30-7:30 pm

Stephen Wirtz Gallery announces *Roaming*, an exhibition of photographs by Todd Hido that presents anonymous and ordinary landscape charged with a hauntingly atmospheric and menacing intensity. Hido captures a momentary shift in our perception of these isolated and innocuous places resulting from a confluence of variable elements of place, time of day, light and weather. Wandering alone by car in areas on the edge of cities and towns throughout America, Hido seeks to record the transformation of the seemingly uninteresting to the theatrical, while evidencing his presence as witness.

Hido takes continual road trips in places as far removed as Eastern Washington State, the California Central Valley, Indiana, New Jersey, and South Louisiana. He locates unpeopled landscapes occupied by only by a few telephone poles, a single sad tree, or a road leading nowhere that transform and take on an unreal appearance in these works. Hido often photographs from the driver's seat and through the car windshield, evidenced in some works by the slight distortion from the glass, inviting the viewer to experience the photographer's perspective of being on the inside looking out.

The night studio of *House Hunting* and *Outskirts*, Hido's previous bodies of work, is replaced in many pictures with his utilization of a range of seasonal daylight effects from the rich glow of Autumn to the shrouded sunlight of Winter's inclement conditions. Continuous with earlier works, Hido's landscapes are photographed as encountered by the artist with no additional arrangement or lighting by the artist to suggest a specific narrative. However, these scenes take on the appearance of a staged set where the suspense of something sinister about to happen is palpable, or are suggestive of a crime scene yet to be discovered.

Vince Aletti of *The Village Voice* writes: "A sheared-off tree trunk, a smog-bound path, a tangle of dead brush like burnished gold under a streetlight—Hido isolates these anonymous sites and renders them as suspended, cinematic moments primed for the call of "Action!"

TODD HIDO (b.1968, Kent, OH) received his M.F.A. from the California College of Arts and Crafts in 1996 and his B.F.A. from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and Tufts University. His photographs have been exhibited internationally including solo exhibitions at the Cleveland Museum of Art, OH, and the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, MO, and are included in numerous museum collections including the Guggenheim Museum, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. *Roaming*, his third monograph with Nazraeli Press will be released in June, 2004.

Stephen Wirtz Gallery is located at 49 Geary St., 3rd Fl., San Francisco, CA 94108, (415) 433-6879. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Friday, 9:30-5:30, Saturday 10:30-5:30.

For additional information please contact Julie Casemore, Tel.: (415) 433-6879, julie@wirtzgallery.com.

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