

# STEPHEN WIRTZ GALLERY

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GORDON MOORE

*Paintings & Short Drawings*

Exhibition dates: May 2 – June 2, 2007

Opening reception for the artist, Thursday, May 3, 2007, 5:30-7:30 PM

Stephen Wirtz Gallery presents *Paintings & Short Drawings*, an exhibition of new work by New York based painter Gordon Moore.

Moore creates compelling abstract canvases that utilize latex paint combined with finely ground pumice to reveal variations on a common theme: restless, branch-like linear forms that meander, interact and penetrate the rectangular segments of a reduced background. These distinctively defined areas contain variable arrangements of lush and nuanced brushwork, each with a limited palette—often a muted green or grey, but occasionally a graphically bold expanse of black. Moore makes subtle reference to forms from the urban environments he is inspired by, such as construction fencing and iron rebar, although any suggestion of actual representational form is purely a chance occurrence.

The canvases are essentially about drawing. Expressive linear forms are wielded throughout with delicately rendered lines and graphically bold passages of varying thickness appearing both on the surface and buried beneath the rectangular expanses. Shadow forms and ghost images emerge to tangle with gradations of color on the irregular grids. Moore's varied line chaotically bends, loops, and intersects as it moves through this armature, creating essential structure within illusory space.

A selection from Moore's ongoing series *Short Drawings* accompanies the canvases in the exhibition. These loose and intuitive works on paper combine ink-wash expanses and geometric gradations of latex paint that reveal Moore's signature structural forms.

Dave Hickey writes in a recent exhibition catalogue, "So the aura of mystery is there, and, in Moore's paintings, with their shorthand *sfumato*, the idea of looking-through, hovering behind and passing through the plane of the image is always available."

Born in Cherokee, Iowa, Moore received his BFA from the University of Washington in 1970 and his MFA from Yale University in 1972. He is the recipient of several prestigious awards in painting, including the Adolph & Ester Gottlieb Foundation award in Painting in 2001 and the Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Award in Painting in 1991. In 2006, Moore was a recipient of the Pollock Krasner Foundation Grant. His work is included in many prominent collections, including the Baltimore Museum of Art, and he is represented in New York by Betty Cunningham Gallery. This is his first exhibition with Stephen Wirtz Gallery.

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