

[PRESS RELEASE]

Parker's Box 193 Grand Street Brooklyn NY 11211 718 388 2882 www.parkersbox.com



Gregory Curry, *Scour*, Acrylic on canvas, 51 x 45 ins, 2005

> TENNEWPAINTINGS

**MATT BLACKWELL, STEVEN BROWER, GREGORY CURRY, HERVÉ DI ROSA,
GREGORY FORSTNER, ANDREW JAMES, JASON GLASSER,
JOYCE PENSATO, SALLY ROSS, STEFAN SEHLER**

JANUARY 13 – FEBRUARY 13, 2006

GALLERY HOURS: FRIDAY TO MONDAY 1 TO 7 PM

OPENING RECEPTION: FRIDAY JANUARY 13, 6-9 PM BEER BY CARLSBERG

Parker's Box is delighted to announce *TENNEWPAINTINGS*, new works by a selection of artists from various backgrounds and generations. The choice of artists rather than works was the starting point for this exhibition, and while their styles and practices are particularly diverse, all remain somehow attached to a figurative motif, even if this first acts as a superstructure that gives a voice and a platform to the paint itself.

Brooklyn artist, **Andrew James**, for example, has painted an ostensibly joyous, landscape-based composition in which the paint revels in its own dance across the painting's surface. Drawn into the work's luxurious gestures, the spectator begins to sense the artist's veiled musings about the plight of us humans. Dealing with not unrelated thoughts, **Steven Brower** does so quite differently. Painting banal things from his immediate surroundings, the artist seems to simultaneously propose the elevation of their status, while giving the medium a less than grandiose role, deftly using painting to celebrate the possible heroism of the mundane.

Doffing their caps to the history of painting, some of the artists, such as **Matt Blackwell**, **Gregory Forstner** and **Jason Glasser** perhaps take the opposite approach to Brower, using degrees of the voluptuousness of historical painting to instill their work with a certain grandeur which they deflate at will through their various mechanisms of fiction, irony, humor etc. Humor is forefronted in the exaggerated, gestural caricatures of **Joyce Pensato's** cartoon characters. The light-heartedness of this work belays what can only be a darker subtext. In **Hervé Di Rosa's** highly publicized cartoony works of the 1980's, it was hard to imagine any such concerns, but this is less the case in his startling current series of paintings of Miami, just as energetic but with a crudeness of technique and subject that pass comment as insidiously as Pensato. The ambiguities at work here also exist, but in a different register in the recent paintings of **Gregory Curry**. If Pensato and Di Rosa embrace cartoon imagery in their paintings, Curry makes cartoons as a parallel activity that seems to liberate him in his paintings. They float in an uncertain world that could be microscopic or monumental, while retaining an implied narrative. Here, paint both creates illusions and explodes them in deep spaces not dissimilar to those that operate in **Stefan Sehler's** new work. In the Berlin painter's version, the illusion is more of an optical effect than a painterly one, though aided and abetted by the rich manipulation of paint within his process. Process is also very much the concern of Australian artist, **Sally Ross** who builds her paintings with repeated, even obsessive applications of small, highly pigmented marks. The fluttering, swooping, near abstract entity she has painted for the exhibition comes after an extended series of paintings of birds. Once again, however, as in the practice of all ten artists, the paint itself has more to say than the artist- which is just the way it should be.

Matt Blackwell courtesy of Edward Thorpe Gallery; Hervé Di Rosa courtesy of Haim Chanin Gallery
Please contact Parker's Box for further information: 718 388 2882 / info@parkersbox.com