

JOHN BERGGRUEN GALLERY

228 GRANT AVENUE SAN FRANCISCO CALIFORNIA 94108 TEL 415-781-4629

FAX 415-781-0126 GALLERY@BERGGRUEN.COM WWW.BERGGRUEN.COM

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A View From Above

May 17 – July 30, 2011

John Berggruen Gallery is pleased to present *A View From Above*, a survey of works by American and International artists whose aesthetic styles and prolific works ask the viewer to slow down and consider their every detail as physical fact, artistic choice and purveyor of meaning. *A View From Above* will occupy the second floor of gallery space and will include work by artists **Vija Celmins, Chuck Close, Mark di Suvero, Olafur Eliasson, Helen Frankenthaler, Tom Friedman, Anish Kapoor, Julian Lethbridge, Julie Mehretu, Martin Puryear, Iran Do Espirito Santo, and Joel Shapiro**. The exhibition opens Tuesday, May 17th and continues through Saturday, July 30th.

Vija Celmins received international attention early in her career for her renditions of natural scenes, which often dispel romantic notions of the sublime in nature. Celmins deliberately chooses as her subject a kind of pictorial information that looks familiar but tells us almost nothing about the realities to which it refers. On display, *Starfield's* (2010) mere pattern of white dots separated by areas of densely worked graphite fittingly presents the viewer a myriad of options: is it an image the artist invented, was it viewed from a telescope by an astronomer who then photographed it, or was it a record made automatically by the instruments themselves: no one's view.

In similar fashion, questions cannot be detached from one's experience of Mark di Suvero's sculptures, which is hardly passive. Di Suvero's interactive sculptures like *Evrard's Marc* (2010) which is on display ask you to move different parts, to walk around, and to watch elements turn and tilt. In relationship to the viewer's movement, the angles constantly change. These mysterious instruments are at once aerodynamic and clunky; whose purpose one can never quite deduce.

Another highlight includes the Danish-Icelandic artist Olafur Ellison's *Super Star* (2008). A rainbow star wrapped in brass bands suggests elliptical orbits, recalls holiday decorations, religious symbols, and children's toys. It also resembles a giant jewel, with gorgeously cut facets reflecting every color of the spectrum. But rather than settling on any one of these interpretations, it evokes a more expansive experience. Ingeniously crafted from tinted glass, mirrors, brass, and halogen light fixtures, it casts kaleidoscopic patterns on the domed ceiling and shines soft beams of light on visitors, who then become part of the art.

Two works by the London-based Indian artist Anish Kapoor will also be on display. *Double* (2004) and *Untitled* (2007) with blazingly reflective metal surfaces dispense

