

WHITNEY

Whitney Museum of American Art
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Press Release

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WHITNEY TO PRESENT NEW WORK BY MARK GROTJAHN

On view September 15, 2006 through January 7, 2007



Mark Grotjahn, *Untitled (Full Color Butterfly)*, 2006

From September 15 through January 7, the Whitney Museum of American Art presents an exhibition of new work by Los Angeles-based artist Mark Grotjahn. Grotjahn, who was included in the 2006 Whitney Biennial, has conceived a cycle of large-scale drawings that fill the Museum's Anne and Joel Ehrenkranz Lobby Gallery. The exhibition is organized by Shamim M. Momin, Associate Curator, Whitney Museum of American Art, and Branch Director and Curator, Whitney Museum of American Art at Altria.

Using very basic implements—colored pencil and paper—Grotjahn employs his now characteristic, multiple-vanishing point “butterfly” pattern in these works. For Grotjahn, who is also a painter, drawing has remained a central focus since his earliest work; it was in this medium that he developed the formal perspective approach for which he is best known. The radial pattern of each drawing is first precisely mapped out on the paper, followed by a dense application of colored pencil to create an unusual level of opacity. Applying a thick layer of pencil contributes a sense of

weight to the two-dimensional works.

Grotjahn's drawings generally incorporate at least two vanishing points, a convention used since the Renaissance to create the illusion of depth and volume on a two-dimensional surface. For Grotjahn, this technique creates the structure and also, in a sense, becomes the subject of the works themselves. Subtle shifts in placement of the points change the compositional balance. The percussive rhythms created by the use of color and form reverberate with a tension at times pleasurable, other times anxious or almost melancholic.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Mark Grotjahn (born 1968) lives and works in Los Angeles. He received his B.F.A. from the University of Colorado, Boulder, and M.F.A. from University of California, Berkeley. Grotjahn has exhibited his work in solo exhibitions including Blum & Poe, Los Angeles, CA; Stephen Friedman Gallery, London, UK; UCLA Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA; and an upcoming show at Anton Kern Gallery, New York, NY. His work has also been featured in numerous group exhibitions including the 2005 Carnegie International and at venues such as White Cube, London, UK; The Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL; The Institute of Contemporary Art, The University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA; The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA; The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY; and P.S.1, Long Island City, NY. Grotjahn is also the recipient of the 2003 Penny McCall Foundation Award. His work is in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles, and the Carnegie Museum of Art in Pittsburgh.

ABOUT THE WHITNEY MUSEUM

The Whitney Museum of American Art is the leading advocate of 20th- and 21st-century American art. Founded in 1930, the Museum is regarded as the preeminent collection of American art and includes major works and materials from the estate of Edward Hopper, the largest public collection of works by Alexander Calder, Louise Nevelson, and Lucas Samaras, as well as significant works by Jasper Johns, Donald Judd, Agnes Martin, Bruce Nauman, Georgia O'Keeffe, Claes Oldenburg, Kiki Smith, and Andy Warhol, among other artists. With its history of exhibiting the most promising and influential American artists and provoking intense debate, the Whitney's signature show, the Biennial, has become the most important survey of the state of contemporary art in America today.

Image Credit: Mark Grotjahn, *Untitled (Full Color Butterfly)*, 2006. 54 x 47 1/2 inches; Color pencil on paper. Collection of the artist; courtesy Blum & Poe, Los Angeles and Anton Kern Gallery, New York. © 2006 Mark Grotjahn

Current and Upcoming Exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art:

Full House: Views of the Whitney's Collection at 75 *Edward Hopper on view Through December 3, 2006	Through September 3, 2006*
Mark Grotjahn	September 15, 2006-January 7, 2007
Picasso and American Art	September 28, 2006-January 21, 2007
Albers and Moholy-Nagy	November 2, 2006-January 21, 2007
Kiki Smith	November 16, 2006-February 11, 2007
Terence Koh	January - May 2007
Gordon Matta-Clark	Opens February 2007
Lorna Simpson	March 1-May 6, 2007

The Whitney Museum is located at 945 Madison Avenue, New York City. Museum hours are: Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m., closed Monday and Tuesday. For information, please call 1-800 WHITNEY or visit www.whitney.org

Current and Upcoming Exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art at Altria:

Trace	Through November 12, 2006
Burgeoning Geometries	December 7, 2006 – March 11, 2007

The Whitney Museum of American Art at Altria is located at 120 Park Avenue at 42nd Street. Gallery hours: Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursdays 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Sculpture Court Hours: Monday through Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Sundays and holidays 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. The Whitney Museum at Altria is funded by Altria Group, Inc. Admission is free. Free gallery talks are offered every Wednesday and Friday at 1:00 p.m. For further information, please call (917) 663-2453.