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Transformer presents new paintings by Richard Chartier and Paul Vinet with the exhibition:



February 2 – March 8, 2008

OPENING RECEPTION:
Saturday, February 2, 7-9pm

ARTIST TALK: Saturday, February 16, 2pm



Incorporating distinctly different approaches to covering, and conversely, revealing layers of action/inaction in their work, Richard Chartier and Paul Vinet each intentionally obscure and highlight specific aspects within their paintings. Their new works featured in **absence presence** focus the viewer on details that bring out formal structures, while hinting at underlying narrative.

Richard Chartier stopped painting on a regular basis in 2000, starting again in 2006 to incorporate a quiet, visual aesthetic similar to the sound installations that have gained him national and international recognition. With the **absence presence** exhibition at Transformer, Chartier furthers a series of small works on paper created for the *Invisible Other* exhibit at New American Art Union (Portland, OR). Described as “playing with the notion of visibility, and the drawn image”, his current body of work consists of intentionally subtle pencil drawings that were erased and then painted over. “Even after being erased vigorously, tiny vestiges of the initial marks are still visible...imploing the viewer to step closer and to adjust the eyes.”

In conversation with the ‘absences’ that Chartier presents with his work, Paul Vinet’s 30 x 35” prints speak to the idea of ‘presence’ - specifically the religious concept that God is everywhere. Vinet’s new work presented at Transformer includes a mix of staged and street photographs covered with gold leaf, in reference to Italian pre-Renaissance paintings. Vinet states, “Before mastering perspective, artists used gold leaf for background to represent the space of God. Representing the world as divine and not human in this way eliminates references to time and place. In these photos, people seem to float in this space that can be viewed alternatively as divine, alienating, timeless, or without perspective.

Richard Chartier, internationally renowned sound/installation and visual artist has created over 30 critically acclaimed releases including collaborations with Taylor Deupree, William Basinski, COH, and Asmus Tietchens. His digital minimalist work explores the inter-relationships between the spatial nature of sound, silence, focus, and the act of listening. Chartier’s sound works/installations have been presented internationally including at the exhibits *Sounding Spaces* at ICC (Tokyo, Japan), *I Moderni / The Moderns* at Castello di Rivoli (Torino, Italy), and the 2002 Biennial at the Whitney Museum of American Art (NY). He has performed his work live across Europe, Japan, Australia, and North America at noted digital art/music festivals and at exhibits such as *Frequenzen [Hz]* at the Schirn Kunsthalle (Frankfurt, Germany) and *A Minimal Future? Art as Object 1958-1968* and *Visual Music* at MOCA (LA). Chartier’s Series was awarded Honorable Mention in the category of Digital Music by the prestigious Prix Ars Electronica, 2001 (Austria). In 2006 he was commissioned by the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden to create a collaborative sound performance work in conjunction

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with the Hiroshi Sugimoto retrospective exhibit. This work, entitled *Specification*. Fifteen was recently awarded one of five Honorable Mentions for outstanding contemporary artistic positions in digital media art by the Jury of Transmediale.07 Award Competition (Germany). For more info: www.3particles.com

Paul Vinet has shown in galleries in New York, Paris, Brussels and in Musée Arthur Batut in Toulouse, France. Previous series are *Learning from New York* (the title refers to the book *Learning from Las Vegas* by Robert Venturi, Denise Scott Brown and Steven Izenour), *People* and *White Stripes* (series still in progress). He holds degrees in art history, museology and graphic design. For more info: paulvinet.com

Images left - right: Richard Chartier, *field variation.4*, 2007; Paul Vinet, *Scene 1*, 2007

EXHIBITION HOURS for *absence presence*: Wednesday – Saturday, 1–7pm & by appointment.

TRANSFORMER is a Washington, D.C. based 501(c) 3 non-profit, artist-centered visual arts organization that connects and promotes emerging artists locally, nationally and internationally. Partnering with artists, curators, art spaces and other cultural entities, Transformer serves as a catalyst and advocate for emergent expression in the visual arts. Transformer's 2007/2008 exhibition series is supported by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, The DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities/NEA, the Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, The Eugene and Agnes E. Meyer Foundation, and The Visionary Friends of Transformer.

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