

“SUSPENDED ARRIVAL”

Solo Exhibition of Caitlin Reilly



Elisabeth de Brabant Art Center, Shanghai

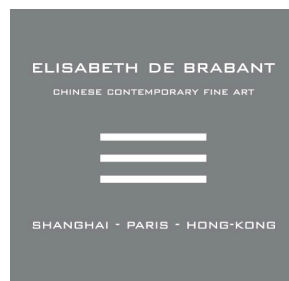
November 11 – December 15, 2009

Elisabeth de Brabant is very honored to present the works of Caitlin Reilly in China for the first time. The artist describes her work in her own words:

‘Suspended Arrival’ is a body of work on paper that is underpinned by an autobiographical subtext. My work is a direct response to my surroundings, daily comings and goings and a reflection of my environment both physically and emotionally. By working quickly a suspension of conscious knowledge was shaped into a coherent whole. The outcome was a layering of histories and surfaces that held mistakes to ransom, their erasure becoming an extension that expanded an understanding of a continuing transformative experience of place.

During winter 2007 in Byron Bay, Australia, I focused all of my attention on drawing. Prior to that, I had spent a decade painting allowing drawing to fulfill that traditional notion as the first step toward developing an image. In this series of works on paper I used drawing as a tool for asking questions of a medium in its own right.

Drawing for me is no less or more important than any other medium. It is a way in



which I fill space, remember experiences and respond to this incredible world in which we live.

During the early stages of making the work I watched a documentary¹ on the falling man. It was a story about a photograph² of a man who fell to his death from the North World Trade Tower in New York at 15 seconds past 9:41am EST, 9/11/01. The photograph so deeply touching depicted a man falling to what he knew would be his death. A suspended moment of grace placed against the backdrop of disaster. When the photograph was published many were repelled and offended by the image as if merely looking at it was to intrude upon a moment of private agony. The documentary investigated the identity of the man and connected him to many others who seemed to fit the likeness. Initially the falling man was incorrectly identified; the documentary followed the journey to his identity four and a half years after the event. The importance of life and the undeniable truth that this particular life was about to pass was captured for all to see. The image and the story behind it affected me deeply; time for an instant was obliterated by an eternal present.

This sense of eternal presence informed the studio processes engaged in for this collection of works. Unlike a photo stopping time, drawing moves along with time arriving each second, each moment, each mark, a suspension of process and a continuous unfolding.

The evolution of *Suspended Arrival* has spanned more than two years, originated in my studio in Australia and taking form in my current home here in Shanghai, China. The metamorphosis of my work over this period has culminated in the addition of small artist's books and two larger pieces that seemed essential in order to reinforce the original sentiment of falling.

For me, here in Shanghai it is a continual process of merging into another culture whilst simultaneously departing from my own and surrendering to the motion of the natural rhythm and daily order. Amongst the chaotic energy that at first seemed so incredibly frenetic and random I have found a flow that resides amongst these streets. Peace is simply obtained by moving with the natural order rather than moving against it. Some days this is easier than others, usually for me those are the days when I am walking or on my bicycle.

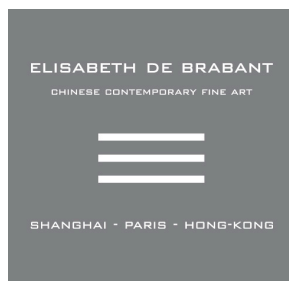
Suspended Arrival is material evidence derived from this intense, multilayered experience of place made tangible by the simple repetitive act of drawing.

"Dessine moi un mouton"
"Dreams too can be drawn."

Caitlin Reilly has studied Visual Arts at the Southern Cross University in New South Wales, Australia and was invited to study at the Slade School of Art (London) and the Chelsea School of Art (London) in 2006.

¹ Tom Junod, *9/11: The Falling Man*, Australia: IMDb, 08/31/06.

² Drew Richard: photographer



PRESS PREVIEW

Date: November 11, 2009
Time: 2:00 - 4:00 pm

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Date: November 11, 2009
Time: 6:00 - 9:00 pm

EXHIBITION DATES

Dates: November 11 – December 15, 2009

Address: No. 299 Fuxing West Road, Shanghai 200031

RSVP

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Art Center Hours
Tues-Fri, 10a – 6:30p; Sat & Sun, 1:30 – 6:30p
Closed on Mondays

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