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Peter Soriano

New Sculptures and Drawings

Opens Saturday, May 5, 6-8 pm
Continues through June 23, 2007
Tuesday-Saturday 10am-6pm

In this exhibition, Peter Soriano presents work from two distinct yet related groups of sculptures made concurrently during the past two years. In one series, bundled objects made of materials such as aluminum tubes, plastic, brightly colored swatches of patterned fabric and paint are suspended in mid-air, tethered to the walls by taut steel cables. Two span the width between facing walls, another holds a corner, and one radiates from a central anchor protruding from a single large wall. The second group of work looks quite different, and might be described as architectural models of rooms and spaces made with closed eyes. This is to say that they look inward, to memory and experience, rather than to outward appearances. They are made of unfinished wood, glue, nails, and patching compound and appear in certain respects to be three-dimensional sketches, yet are resolutely finished works. The exhibition will include several dozen of these sculptures, along with related drawings.

In both series, Soriano externalizes an interior journey involving space and time. The “rooms” are of his past; places that are gone and that he has reconstructed with his imagination – how long was the hallway, how many stairs, how high was the ceiling, how wide the space? With the suspended sculptures, Soriano demarcates space more factually, defining sightlines and punctuating by means of spray-painted circles the points of contact between the cables and the walls. The finely observed formal qualities of weight, volume, material and spatial relations place Soriano’s new work squarely in the realm of sculptors such as H. C. Westermann, George Sugarman, Donald Judd, Eva Hesse, Robert Grosvenor and Fred Sandback.

Since his last exhibition in New York in 2002, Peter Soriano has extended the range of materials and methods he brings to his work, and the new sculptures may be viewed as a considerable departure from the colorful cast resin objects that he is known for. He was offered a six-month residency at the Atelier Calder in Saché, France in 2004, and made a substantial body of new and different work there that has recently been exhibited at the FRAC Auvergne. A catalogue was published with texts by Éric de Chassey and Éric Suchère which provides a broad and useful view of this phase in his work and the foundation that preceded it.

Peter Soriano was born in 1959 in Manila, Philippines. He lives and works in New York, and has exhibited with us since 1994. He has shown regularly in Paris as well, at Galerie Jean Fournier and Galerie Bernard Jordan. His works are included in the collections of the Fogg Art Museum at Harvard University, the Fonds National d’Art Contemporain, Paris, the Fondation Cartier, the Wanas Foundation in Sweden, and other institutions.

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