

PRESENTS

CATCHING THE WORD

GROUP EXHIBITION

FEBRUARY 1 – MARCH 8, 2008

Opening Reception:

Friday, February 1st, 6-8pm



FEATURED ARTISTS

Joe Amrhein
David Baskin
Jane Benson
AJ Bocchino
Isidro Blasco
Vitaly Komar
Adam Niklewicz
John Plowman
Bob+Roberta Smith
Mark Lawrence Stafford
Michael Van den Besselaar

For this group exhibition Black and White Gallery // Chelsea has brought together a selection of text based works under the title *Catching The Word*. The title refers to the way participating artists use text to challenge the passive nature of traditional art-viewing by engaging the viewers as active participants in the exchange of information. By means of diverse mediums, these artists transmit messages whose task is to establish a specific relationship between a sender (artist) and a receiver (viewer).

In some instances messages are in the form of easily accessible short utterances reminiscent of SMS text messages. Though presented as absolute truths cast in resin, photographed, printed, or inscribed on a canvas, they are used not to impose a finite meaning on viewers but to share meaning through viewers' own personal reflection.

In other instances, language appears less accessible and no longer used for open communication between a sender and a receiver. Since these types of messages are less likely to be deciphered, they are thus protected from outside eyes. It turns out to be a way for senders to exclude all those receivers who will not understand the message. Language is no longer a means of communication but, conversely, a limit that can be perceived by a viewer as the experience of rejection and by a sender as guarding his private space. Unlike a relationship imbued with conviviality and mutual understanding, these works explore what happens on the dark side, when the equilibrium teeters.

Catching The Word's goal is to test how instrumental words and language are in affecting the notion of cultural and social "territories" and the relationship individuals construct with their environment, private or shared space.

Black and White Gallery // Chelsea is located at 636 West 28th Street, Ground Floor, New York, NY 10001.

Gallery Hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 11am - 6 pm.

For more information please contact the gallery at (212) 244 3007

Email: info@blackandwhiteartgallery.com

Image:

Adam Niklewicz, *Triptych*, 2007, mixed media. The May 2007 editions of *Art in America*, *Artnews* and *Artforum* magazines are turned into fully functional kaleidoscopes. All visuals from the review section were removed from each of the publications, shredded into confetti, and fed back into the kaleidoscopes.