

STEPHEN WIRTZ GALLERY

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RICK ARNITZ

The Five W's

Exhibition dates: September 9-October 9, 2004

Opening reception for the artist Thursday, September 9, 2004, 5:30-7:30 pm

Stephen Wirtz gallery announces *The Five W's*, an exhibition of new paintings by Rick Arnitz.

Arnitz limits his process to working only with household enamel paint and paint rollers augmented to produce rows and columns of repeating yet imperfect marks, a technique that uniquely reveals his reverence for abstract expressionism. Representational possibilities materialize between the undulating marks and hues in the paintings that may allude subtly to socio-political issues or wryly comment on the current state of painting. *The Five W's* presents new paintings in his continuing series that explores the relationship of this grid-like visual patterning to the support structure of the World Trade Center towers.

The tools and improvisational yet repetitive nature of Arnitz's work creates an abstract and eye-dazzling effect, and the mechanics of the roller he employs produces his signature painting style. Arnitz endeavors to "achieve a sense of artistic authenticity by transparently illusional means," using his unconventional methods and imposed structure to imbue the non-objective paintings with a sense of weight and materiality. The paintings can achieve a palpable physicality that directly engages the viewer. Deadpan titles of the works are suggestive of subjects that Arnitz responds to with an acerbic but emotionally credible tone.

Maria Porges in *Artforum* writes: "[Arnitz's] patient mastery of the pedestrian roller's so-called accidents has brought his work to a level of extraordinary refinement."

RICK ARNITZ (b. St. Louis, MO) received a B.A., M.A. and M.F.A. from the University of California, Berkeley. His work has been exhibited widely in the Bay Area since 1975, including a solo exhibition at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art in 1989, and is included in numerous private and public collections including the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the San Jose Museum of Art, the Berkeley Art Museum, and the Oakland Museum of California.

Stephen Wirtz Gallery is located at 49 Geary St., 3rd Fl., San Francisco, CA 94108, (415) 433-6879. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Friday, 9:30-5:30, Saturday 10:30-5:30.

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