

OVERDUIN AND KITE

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PRESS RELEASE

Stephen G. Rhodes
"Ruined Dualisms"
September 6th – October 17th, 2007
Opening reception: Thursday, September 6th, 7-9pm

Overduin and Kite presents "Ruined Dualisms," the first solo exhibition in Los Angeles by Stephen G. Rhodes. The exhibition will include video, sculpture, painting and drawing.

Central to "Ruined Dualisms" are two dual video projections. In each, a duel is projected onto opposite sides of a single screen, each side presenting a different unfolding of the action. Each screen sits directly in the line of fire between the two projectors as the video jumps between static shots and quick zooms – the specter of the anticipated bullet. Within the basic structure of the duel (two people, two guns, one action), Rhodes fractures the expected linear narrative of the event that should have a clear beginning and end with an endlessly looping and disjointed non-event that is perpetually delayed, or perhaps has already happened.

At each end of the gallery is a large sculpture of crumbling brick ruins. The crevices of the precarious looking structures are stuffed with debris, animating the otherwise anonymous, unmarked ruins.

Two painted triptychs face each other across the gallery. Taking as their starting point traditional portrait paintings, Rhodes removes the subjects from the canvases, painting only the abstract, multicolored backgrounds. The resulting imagery is both celestial and hallucinatory; vacated portraits haunted by gaseous spectral bodies.

Using the image of an envelope – the symbolic summons to a duel, the drawings play on the idea of the "post" as a system that operates out of time, a conveyance of messages after the fact. In addition to collaged images, the drawings include messages; on the front, a note from the French filmmaker Robert Bresson, and on the back, a note from the French writer Maurice Blanchot.

As a whole, the installation encourages a circular apprehension of the works. The two-sided videos as well as the sculptures are experienced in the round, while the opposing wall works allude to an interior space and create a perimeter around the sculptural elements, confounding ideas of inside and outside. Rhodes's invocation of duality, symmetry, and other binary systems invites an investigation of their impossibility, dysfunction and ultimate breakdown.

Stephen G. Rhodes lives and works in Los Angeles. This fall, his work will be included in "U.S.A. Today" at the State Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg, Russia and he was also recently included in "Between Two Deaths" at ZKM Center for Art and Media, Karlsruhe, Germany.

For more information and images, please contact Lisa Overduin or Kristina Kite. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday 10am to 5pm and by appointment.