

COLEMAN BURKE GALLERY BRUNSWICK

Fort Andross, 14 Maine Street, Brunswick, Maine :: www.colemanburke.com :: info@colemanburke.com

JACOB GALLE

Timbered [pitch]

April 19 through July 3, 2010

Opening Reception:
Friday, May 14, 5-8 pm

Gallery Hours:
Monday-Saturday, 9 am – 9 pm



BRUNSWICK, ME - **Jacob Galle** is an artist and a farmer whose work draws on both practices as a means of exploring the aesthetic and social implications of farming, logging, and other forms of manual labor. At a time when digital information threatens to overtake our first-hand perceptions and experience of the world, Galle's art gently and persuasively draws our attention to the essential yet often misunderstood and marginalized role of physical labor, which even in the Information Age continues to serve our most basic needs for food, shelter, and transportation, while also providing us with unique insights from the front lines of our environmental policies.

Galle's site-specific installation, *Timbered [pitch]*, is a contemplative exploration of these issues, as reflected in the wooded landscape. Comprised of a roomful of younger pine trees that appear to be floating five feet above the gallery floor, *Timbered [pitch]* is an installation that is meant to raise our awareness by putting us, in the artist's own words, "in a place we never get to be."

Originally harvested to clear pastureland on Galle's family farm in Bowdoinham, Maine, and repurposed as a work of art, the trees' implicit record of the labor involved in their cutting and relocation (as well as the imagined space they've left behind) is an intentional aspect of the piece and just one of many echoes and implications stemming from it.



While our initial impression of Galle's installation might be fascinating, disorienting, disturbing, and calming all at the same time, it's a mixture of emotions that signals our often conflicted relationship to the natural world. Whatever thoughts, memories, values, or impressions we might bring to it, *Timbered [pitch]* is an artwork that distills and brings into focus one of our most cherished and primordial experiences; the forest as a place of shelter and of solace, yet also one—as in fables, myths, films, and fairy tales—that can be as sinister and dreadful as it is nurturing and Edenic.



As suggested by the wordplay in its title, ***Timbered [pitch]*** is also about the sounds of the forest and what they can tell us about the state of the landscape and our place within it. A sound recording of the wind whispering through old growth pine trees, made in Bowdoinham, Maine, emanates from the treetops at one end of the gallery. By contrast, a video of the artist walking through variously forested and deforested landscapes in the Pacific Northwest, projected on a wall at the opposite end of the space, captures the sound of the wind whistling through cleared forestland in a way that poignantly reflects an alternative approach to land use.

On view from mid-April through early July, ***Timbered [pitch]*** functions as a time-based piece as well, as the trees will inevitably brown and very likely drop their needles, with the gradual accumulation on the floor below them serving as a visual record of passing time. Heightening this effect is the conscious relationship of Galle's installation to the exterior courtyard just outside the gallery windows, in which trees that similarly occupy a room-like space will be coming into bloom and producing foliage even as the trees inside the gallery are losing theirs.

Delightful, fascinating, and readily appealing at first glance, yet surprisingly nuanced and multi-layered upon reflection, ***Timbered [pitch]***, like all of Galle's art, is a provocative yet unpolemical look at the state of nature and the fruits of our labors--as well as their consequences--within it.

About the Artist

Jacob Galle received his MFA degree from Vermont College of Fine Arts in 2005, and his BA in art history from Plymouth State College, New Hampshire, in 2001. In addition to his successful studio practice, Galle also manages his family's sheep farm in Bowdoinham, Maine.

Galle has presented solo exhibitions at Valise Gallery, Vashon, WA (2010); Alfred State College, Alfred, NY (2010); Art Space, New Haven, CT (2009); Western Michigan University School of Art, Kalamazoo, MI (2008); and 1708 Gallery, Richmond, VA (2006), among many others, and has been included in group exhibitions at Gallery Aferro, Newark, NJ (2010); Laznia Contemporary Art Center, Gdansk, Poland (2009); Queens Museum of Art, New York, NY (2009); El Museo del Barrio, New York, NY (2009), and the Portland Museum of Art Biennial (2009), among many others.

Galle has been awarded artist residencies at the Jentel Residency Program, Banner, WY (2008) and the Bemis Center for Contemporary Art, Omaha, NE (2006), among others, and artist's grants from the LEF Foundation (2007) and the Maine Arts Commission (2007), among others.

About the Gallery

Founded in 2007, **Coleman Burke Gallery Brunswick** is a 4,200 square foot project space located in the Fort Andross mill on the Androscoggin River in Brunswick, Maine. The mission of the gallery is to serve as a venue for artists to create large-scale, site-specific works of art. Coleman Burke Gallery Brunswick is affiliated with **Coleman Burke Gallery New York**, a contemporary art gallery in the Chelsea gallery district in Manhattan, and **Coleman Burke Gallery Portland**, a storefront window installation space at Port City Music Hall in Portland, Maine.

For additional information and images, go to <http://colemanburke.com> or contact the gallery at info@colemanburke.com.