

PRESS RELEASE

Mark Wethli

Recent Paintings

April 10-May 16, 2009

Opening Reception: Friday, April 10, 2009, 6-8 pm

REDFLAGG

638 West 28th Street
New York, New York
Ground Floor, between 11th & 12th Avenues

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Westfield (2009), acrylic on found wood panel, 40x30"

RedFlagg is pleased to present an exhibition of recent paintings by Mark Wethli. The show will take place at 638 West 28th Street from April 10th through May 16th, 2009.

Painted on recycled wooden table tops and inspired by sources as varied as rural, hand-lettered signs, the arts of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas, art by self-taught artists, and modernist reductive painting--as well as personal experience--Wethli's paintings pay homage to these traditions while recasting and extending them in new directions.

Combining iconographic imagery, abstract design, rudimentary colors, and straight-forward brushwork, the paintings' equivocal identity is underscored by the use of the table



Nights in Barcelona (2009)
Acrylic on found wood panel, 20x15"

tops, whose physical history and traces of wear and tear contribute to their enigmatic origin, meaning, and purpose.

The overt physicality of these found surfaces, as well as their close affinity with other types of built structures (doors, gates, fences, billboards, and so forth), raises questions about which category of material culture they derive from, intentionally blurring the line between the made and the found, the functional and the aesthetic.

Mark Wethli is a painter, sculptor, and public artist whose work has been included in the Whitney Biennial, the DeCordova Annual, the Portland Biennial, and numerous other gallery and museum exhibitions in New York, Los Angeles, Maine, and elsewhere.

His work is included in the collections the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Farnsworth Museum of Art, and the Portland Museum of Art, among others, and he is the recipient of fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Pollock-Krasner Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, MacDowell, and Millay colonies, as well as two Purchase Awards from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He received his BFA and MFA degrees from the University of Miami. Mark Wethli lives and works in Brunswick, Maine, where he is the A. LeRoy Greason Professor of Art at Bowdoin College.

About the Gallery

RedFlagg is a gallery featuring both emerging and established artists working in a variety of mediums and practices. RedFlagg is affiliated with Coleman Burke Gallery, a site-specific project space in Brunswick, Maine, as well as Coleman Burke Gallery @ Port City Music Hall, in Portland, Maine.

For more information, please contact the gallery at info@redflagg.com