



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Swarm Gallery is pleased to present the exhibition

ENTER/EXIT | Jared Clark + Jake Watling
Project Space | **ORANGE AND BLUE** | Joe Penrod

February 20 – March 29, 2009
Exhibition opening Friday, February 20, 6-8PM

OAKLAND, Calif. – 20 January 2009 – Swarm Gallery presents *Enter/Exit*, an exhibition featuring new works by Berkeley-based artist Jake Watling and New York-based artist Jared Clark. In the project space, Olympia-based artist Joe Penrod paints shadows of ordinary objects using blue painter's tape.

Using installation, sculpture, paintings and works on paper, the three artists join in a visual dialogue from varying perspectives. When you walk into a gallery, what will happen in the time before you walk out? What will you see and connect to? What is intimated, what is said, what screams out to you? What lies in the chasm between the contradictory ideas of life and death? Is there a linear path, or is it cyclical, transforming into new life, new meaning, over and over? Where do we exit our worlds and enter someone else's? Where do the boundaries lie?

Jake Watling's paintings investigate themes of life and death, generational cycles, and rebirth from both his personal perspective as well as through a broader context. In composing his pieces, Watling refers to childhood memories, personal experiences, cities and streetscapes, his community, and a diversity of beliefs and rituals. His work often integrates religious themes within an urban setting, and humorously plays with ideas of passive transformations, false selves and moral virtues.

New York-based artist **Jared Clark** visits Oakland for his second exhibition at Swarm. Clark acts in a playful and reverent manner to broaden the dialogue of painting and expand the scope of its location. As a self-described "interventionist," Clark seeks to transform both the materials that he works with, and the dialogue of painting, through participation rather than reformation. In practice this leads Jared into the territory of ready-mades, installation, and playful systems that operate on multiple levels. His "Paintings" often consist of found objects arranged in dialogue with the classic residence of painting: The wall, the grid, and the support.

City explorer **Joe Penrod**, uses ordinary blue painters tape to document every day icons of the urban landscape - traffic cones, stop signs, benches, garbage cans and ladders, to name a few. For this installation in Swarm's project space, he plans to build a column of traffic cones in reference to Constantin Brancusi's "Endless Column." The original sculpture was created as a tribute to young Romanians who died in World War I fighting Germany. His tape shadows mimic shadows cast by the sun, yet the bright blue contrasts to what our eyes expect to see, creating a beautiful and surreal illusion.

PRESS CONTACT and IMAGES

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