

Wallspace

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Disavowal (Mark Wyse)

April 4 - May 10, 2008

Opening reception: Friday, April 4th, 6 - 8pm

Christopher Williams / Nan Goldin
Sherrie Levine / Walker Evans /
Thomas Ruff
Martha Rosler / Jan Groover
Gillian Wearing
Paul Outerbridge / Eliot Porter
Robert Bechtle / Jeff Wall
Thomas Struth / Rodney Graham
Sharon Lockhart / Charlie White
Bruce Nauman / Barbara Kruger
Charles Ray
Roe Etheridge / Edward Weston
Jeff Wall / Carleton Watkins
Caspar David Friedrich / James
Wallace Black

Roe Etheridge / Paul Outerbridge
Carleton Watkins / Robert Adams
Andrew Bush / Bruce Nauman
Andrew Freeman / Ansel Adams
Larry Sultan / Larry Sultan
Christopher Williams / Doris Ulmann
Allan Sekula / Paul Strand
Jeff Wall / Soo Kim
Roger Fenton / Charles Ray
Cathy Opie / Richard Prince
Thomas Struth / Charlie White
Ed Ruscha
Robert Mapplethorpe / Alexander Gardner
Allan Sekula / Alfred Stieglitz
James Welling / Alfred Stieglitz

Disavowal is an engagement with our conflicted relationship to desire. If in a crude sense modernism is an embrace of desire and postmodernism is a critique of that desire, this show seeks to commingle the two. In doing so it explores key works by both contemporary and historical artists who restrain, displace, or distance desire with the intentional, or unintentional effect of accentuating desire. This show takes as its premise that desire intensifies in relation to restraint.

This show started as an act of curation. Wallspace asked me to curate a show of photographs. I quickly realized I was at the mercy of the artists I wanted to include and the availability of historical pieces. This was unacceptable. It only made sense to not submit to the control and intentions of the artists I wished to show. The unintentional or disavowed aspect of their work was what I wanted to see. The solution dictated me cutting into my books, to show precisely the objects that had formed my thinking about the work. To show the reproductions themselves, by framing the reproductions. My desire was to shift the context to a context of individuals. In this sense I think of my show as a show of portraits, portraits of desire, as if each person's psyche was in the room.

- Mark Wyse, March 2008

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Mark Wyse (b. 1970) holds a BA from the University of Colorado and an MFA from Yale University School of the Art. Selected exhibitions include: *Photography on Photography: Reflections on the Medium since 1960*, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY (Opening on April 8th); *Shifting Topologies*—curated by Trevor Richardson, Herter Gallery, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, MA (2006); as well as four solo shows at Wallspace, in 2002, 2003, 2005 and 2007. Wyse's work has been featured in numerous publications including *Art in America*, *The New Yorker*, *Art on Paper*, *The Los Angeles Times* and *The Village Voice*. His first monograph, *18 Landscapes*, was published by Nazraeli Press in 2005. Wyse's work is in the public collections of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York and The Yale University Art Museum, New Haven. He lives and works in Los Angeles.

Too Drunk to Fuck (On the Anxiety of Photography), an essay written by Mark for LACMA's "Words Without Pictures," project, is currently posted on wordswithoutpictures.org.