

DIAZ CONTEMPORARY

PRESS RELEASE

Francisco Castro

Variations on a Theme

6 September to 13 October 2007

Opening 6 September from 6 to 9

Diaz Contemporary is pleased to present **Francisco Castro's** second solo-show with the gallery. Following his *Serie Hiedra (Ivy Series)* exhibition of 2005, *Variations on a Theme* continues to explore Castro's interest in geometric abstraction, particularly the constructed variations of the grid composition.

Castro's practice falls into a "configured" abstraction, dedicated to structures more than to Euclidian geometry, admitting smears, stains, pencil marks and controlled accidents that seen as a whole give the impression of coherence and rigor.

Castro's new paintings take their point of departure from those exhibited in 2005. The works are centered on a freer yet sustained use of structural relations and are now executed in a bolder use of color not previously explored by the painter. Departing from the previous color scheme, Castro introduces bright reds, mildewed whites, mustard yellows and chalky blacks to his canvases.

Castro continues to explore the possibilities of "displacements," generating unpredictable encounters in the apparent rigidity of his compositions. New formats and pictorial solutions now strive to establish spaces of dialogue that make apparent Castro's variations on a theme, maintaining a sense of both tension and equilibrium.

As the foremost abstract painter of his generation in Mexico, Francisco Castro continues to exhibit widely in North America and Europe. His work is held in numerous public and private collections including: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Museum of Modern Art (New York City), the San Antonio Museum of Art and The Jumex Collection (Mexico City).

DIAZ CONTEMPORARY

Dax Morrison

Details of Canada's Public Art Galleries

6 September to 13 October 2007

Opening 6 September from 6 to 9

Diaz Contemporary is pleased to present **Dax Morrison's** first solo-show with the gallery. Having spent time working behind the scenes in the art world, Morrison's practice is one that is interested in examining the infrastructure of the public gallery system. Elements that are often overlooked are presented by Morrison, which results in them securing the spotlight that is normally reserved for artworks.

Details of Canada's Public Galleries is a project that began with a compulsion to collect an unseen element in the art institution. Public galleries were contacted by the artist and requested to supply a sample of white paint- the same white paint used to cover the gallery exhibition walls. The end result is forty-six panels that display the various shades of white that appear in galleries across Canada. The panels are fabricated to mimic the construction of a gallery's exhibition wall, (drywall over plywood). The panels represent some of the most sought after real estate by Canadian artists.

Dax Morrison completed his MFA at the University of Windsor in 2004 and did his undergraduate training at the Ontario College of Art and Design. He has had solo exhibitions at the Art Gallery of Windsor and Open Studio (Toronto) and has participated in groups exhibitions at Gallery 44 (Toronto) Forest City Gallery (London) and Access Artist Run Centre (Vancouver). Morrison has received an Ontario Arts Council's Emerging Artist grant twice, as well as scholarships from Open Studio and the University of Windsor.

The artist gratefully acknowledges the support of the Ontario Arts Council for the realization of this project.



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