

## PRESS RELEASE

**Tania Kitchell**

***Lightness***

**22 November to 22 December 2007**

**Opening 22 November 3 to 6**

Diaz Contemporary is pleased to present Toronto-based artist's **Tania Kitchell's** first solo-show with the gallery.

Kitchell's new photography and text work in *Lightness* explore her ongoing fascination with the environment and climate, and specifically the spontaneity of weather and her perception and relationship with it.

The photographs in Kitchell's series present us with a natural environment which Kitchell proceeds to interact with, sculpturally devise and reclaim her own. Set in a park on a cloudy autumn day, Kitchell injects constructed white and black cloud-like props into the picture, establishing in the natural and artificial clouds an aesthetic materiality and metaphorical resonance of lightness. Kitchell's nylon clouds dance in the picture frame and at times Kitchell herself intervenes, flying them like kites or being pursued by one while riding a bicycle. For Kitchell, aside from being objects of play, the clouds relate to a certain state of mind. The overall feeling is one of lightness and buoyancy, undercutting the ever-consuming weight and threat of the dark clouds lingering in the sky above.

Kitchell's accompanying text works instill a certain ambiguity around the images allowing their meanings to proliferate. *She sat in a cloud of fog/and waited for a lift* Hence, there is a subtle disassociation of what we see and what the text says, evoking extended thoughts reminiscent of the playfulness of the works and the experience of the artist herself.

Tania Kitchell studied at Institut des Hautes Etudes en Arts Plastique (1994) and Parsons School of Design in Paris, France (1989). Kitchell has exhibited widely across North America and Europe; solo shows include: *It's a Big White World*, Mercer Union (Toronto, 2005), *Low Pressure*, James Harris Gallery, (Seattle, Washington, 2004), *Cold Cuts*, Southern Alberta Art Gallery (2002) and *White Water*, Galerie Grita Insam (Vienna, Austria, 2002). Kitchell's work is included in important public and private collections such as: William and Ruth True Collection (Seattle, Washington), The King County Public Art Collection (King County, Washington).

# DIAZ CONTEMPORARY

**Kelly Jazvac**

***Paper Towels and Hot Tub***

**22 November to 22 December 2007**

**Opening 22 November 6 to 9**

Diaz Contemporary is pleased to present Toronto-based artist **Kelly Jazvac's** first solo-show with the gallery.

*Paper Towels and Hot Tub* is an exhibition of new wall works and sculpture constructed from office supply materials such as laminated paper and tape. Through playful installations and laborious material construction the work references luxury goods and advertising vernacular, resulting in a humorous but critical exploration of consumer desire, marketing, efficiency and use value.

*Hot Tub* is a large-scale sculpture inspired by images of cruise ship hot tubs and an abandoned garden pond. *Paper Towels* are a series of works influenced by hotel hand towels and recycling bags of shredded paper. Both purport to resemble or represent their respective original forms. However, illogical materials combined with a certain failure to perform physically encourage new relationships of form and desire.

In both of these works, material, surface and form are manipulated to orchestrate a renegotiation of the nature and purpose of these objects and the ideas they inspire. The process involves a deconstruction but also a reconstruction. In *Hot Tub*, a garden pond is turned from a container into a pedestal, and its custom-fitted fake-tile veneer is piled limpidly upon it. In the *Paper Towels*, what should be soft and absorbent becomes stiff, shiny, and resistant, calcified almost beyond recognition.

Jazvac's works aspire to be mass-produced luxury consumer goods, and accordingly they share a slick and glossy aesthetic. However they are also handmade with materials that are accessible, yet unconventional. The result is a unique strangeness that solicits questions about consumption and creation, needs and desires, surface and quality, and above all, value. These objects, like any consumer product, have the ability to both delight and disappoint, depending, of course, on ones expectations. Jazvac has created a space for those expectations to be confronted and perhaps, reformulated. *Paper Towels and Hot Tub* is not a simplistic critique: there is as much empathy in these arduous constructions as there is criticality.

Kelly Jazvac's *Upgrade* exhibition is currently on display at the Toronto Sculpture Garden, running until 15 April 2008.

Upcoming projects include a group show, *Pulp*, at Open Space in Victoria, B.C. (December 2007). Kelly Jazvac received her B.A. from the University of Guelph in 2003 and M.F.A. from the University of Victoria in 2006. Jazvac has participated in exhibitions both nationally and internationally.

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