

# DIAZ CONTEMPORARY

## PRESS RELEASE

**James Carl**

*jealousie*

22 November 2008 to 17 January 2009

Opening Saturday 22 November from 5 to 8

Diaz Contemporary is pleased to present new work by James Carl, in his first commercial solo exhibition in Canada. Carl is known for his uncommon use of common materials. In this series of works, his exploration of the material world takes on new visual form.

*jealousie* is the working title for a series of sculptures that Carl began making in 2005 in Paris. The works are constructed from venetian blinds – referred to as "jealousie" in colloquial French and German. As with much of Carl's work, these sculptures explore the possibilities for visual encounter: probing the normal, the moral, and the all-too-common, in a spirit of compliance and conversation.

Various conventional negative attributes confront each other in the new work: the ostensibly negative status of craft in fine art discourse, for example, is woven into conversation with modernist sculpture's characteristic negative space. The works exploit abstraction as a historically grounded formal vocabulary. Their organic geometries cross paths somewhere between Sol Lewitt and Henry Moore.

Carl has exhibited extensively both nationally and internationally. Recent shows include *jealousie* at Galerie Heinz-Martin Weigand in Karlsruhe, Germany; *negative spaces* at Florence Loewy in Paris; *plot* at Vancouver's Contemporary Art Gallery, and *bottom feeder* at Mercer Union in Toronto. He earned his MFA from Rutgers University and has degrees from McGill, the University of Victoria and the Central Academy of Fine Art in Beijing. His work is in public and private collections across North America and Europe. Currently, Carl is an Associate Professor of Studio Art at the University of Guelph.

In conjunction with this exhibition, the first major survey of Carl's work will be exhibited at three galleries. Entitled *do you know what*, this survey will be shown at the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery at the University of Toronto (22 November to 25 January), the Cambridge Galleries Queen's Square (17 January to 1 March) and the MacDonald Stewart Art Centre in Guelph (17 January to 22 March).

The artist gratefully acknowledges the support of Hunter Douglas Canada in the realization of the exhibition.