

"3" AT STREMMEL GALLERY

Exhibition dates: Feb. 24 – Mar. 25, 2011

Reception: Thursday, Feb. 24, 5:30 – 7:30 pm. Open to the public.

On Thursday, February 24, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm, Stremmel Gallery will host an opening reception for an exhibition of sculpture and painting by three California artists who work in different media and utilize diverse artistic vocabularies. Varying from richly surfaced contemporary painting, elegant sculptural forms, and diminutive assemblage vignettes that arise from a delightfully perverse imagination, each artist achieves a unique resolution of their own particular vision.

Catherine Coan is an artist, writer and professor living in Manhattan Beach, CA. Her body of work entitled *Canary Suicides*, transforms birdcages, doll furniture and mounted canaries into humorous and poetic meditations on captivity, miniature embodiment, the pet as fetish, and the relationship between life and death. Coan's influences include the medieval reliquary and assemblage artists Robert Rauschenberg and Edward Kienholz. She earned her MFA at the University of Washington in 1995. Coan has taught at the University of Puget Sound, Colorado State University, and DeVry University. Her work has shown in Los Angeles at Arty Gallery and the Gallery of Functional Art. Aviation, her first book of poetry, was published in 2000.

Santa Monica sculptor **Joan Robey** has artistic roots in the California assemblage movement of the early 1960s as well, particularly influenced by the poetic lyricism of California sculptor George Herms. Drawn to the aged materiality of found objects, her constructions merge the detritus aesthetic of the early assemblage artists with formal sculptural techniques, recalling a kinship to the works of Anthony Caro, Martin Puryear, and Catherine Burgess. Dualism, the mainspring of her conceptual framework, is reinforced by the interplay between positive and negative space. Robey grew up in New York and earned a BFA in English from the University of Florida. Her work has been shown in galleries across the nation and collected by institutions including the Peter Norton Foundation and the Museum of Modern Art, Miami. Her constructions appeared in the 1997 feature film, "Batman and Robin".

The paintings of northern California artist **Nicholas Wilton** are rich in color, texture and symbols, referencing a personal vocabulary of botanical forms, patterns and abstract designs. Natural forms are shown alongside abstract and spontaneous marks and shapes. Wilton's process combines intuitive painting with fundamental principles of color harmony, juxtaposition of form and excavated texture. He attended the College of Creative Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and graduated from Art Center College of Design in Los Angeles, California. In addition to gallery exhibitions and inclusion in numerous private collections, his paintings have appeared on various book covers. His cover painting used for the national bestseller "The Four Agreements" by Don Miguel Ruiz appeared on the The Oprah Winfrey Show and in 2003 his work was selected for the cover and featured in the international art annual, "Communication Arts".

The work of Coan, Robey and Wilton will be on view until March 25. Stremmel Gallery is located at 1400 S. Virginia Street. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, from 9:00 am to 5:30 pm, and Saturday from 10 am to 3 pm. For more information, contact Stremmel Gallery at 786-0558.