

Ke-Sook Lee, Michael Tierney, Derek Buckner

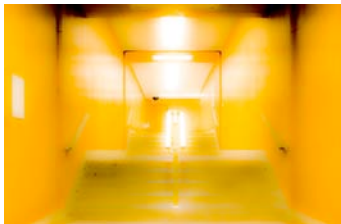
January 13, 2009 – February 14, 2009
Reception: Saturday, January 17, 5-8 p.m.

Ke-Sook Lee explores traditional drawing methods by using a needle and thread. *Windows*, a series of large-scale, embroidered paper installations represent gateways to freedom. Lee's delicate thread designs are personal symbols drawn from her experiences as a young girl in Korea; a mother, wife and homemaker in the U.S.; and as an artist. Her work represents windows to a life free from isolation and entrapment, whether as a young girl imagining the world outside a small town in Korea or as a homemaker in the suburbs. She manipulates the texture of each "window" by soaking, stretching, tearing, dying and ironing – also symbolic of her experiences. Lee learned her craft from her grandmother in Korea who did not know how to read or write, but knew how to express her impassioned thoughts through embroidery, a tradition Lee carries on in her work today.



Lee, *Window*, 2008, (installation view) thread, tea, pigment and mulberry, paper, various dimensions

Ke-Sook Lee was born in Seoul, Korea. She received a B.F.A. in Applied Arts from Seoul National University and earned a B.F.A. in painting from the Kansas City Art Institute. Lee's work has been featured in numerous solo and group exhibitions across the country and internationally, including in Paris, Florence and Seoul. Lee's work has been highlighted in *Art in America*, *Art & Antiques* and *New American Paintings*. She is an award recipient, including first place in *New Media and Installations* at the 4th Biennale International Contemporary Art in Florence. Lee's work is also in several private and corporate collections.



Tierney, *Hall of Administration Los Angeles II*, digital c-print mounted on aluminum, 30" x 45"

Michael Tierney's photographic series *Incidence and Reflection* uniquely balances abstraction and representation. He deconstructs the architectural elements of municipal building interiors around Southern California, highlighting their existing colors, angular lines, reflective surfaces and often times harsh lighting. Tierney's photographs are finished with an acrylic face and mounted on aluminum, which continues the abstraction of the images, reflecting light and enhancing each color, clearly underlining his influence from the California Light and Space movement from the 1960's.

Michael Tierney was born in New York and currently resides in Los Angeles. He earned a B.A. in Liberal Studies from the University of Massachusetts and also attended Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles. His work has been featured in many group exhibitions including in Miami, Los Angeles and London.

Derek Buckner compels the viewer with quirky and surprising paintings of a familiar household snack. His *Marshmallow Series*, abstract and ambiguous, combines the subtlety of amorphous form and endless gelatinous substance while simultaneously rendering humor and beauty. He fills the canvas with tumbling heaps of pink and white marshmallows, which appear to capture a sunset light. Buckner's previous works explored modern anxieties of urban claustrophobia and alien surveillance. This series takes him to a new source of inspiration, yet continues his focus on density and proliferation.



Buckner, *Tumbling Marshmallows*, 2008, oil on canvas, 50" x 60"

Derek Buckner was born and raised in New York, where he currently resides. He studied at Vassar College and earned a B.F.A. from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. His work has been featured in several solo and group exhibitions in New York and Los Angeles as well as in publications like *The New York Times*, *the Los Angeles Times* and *The New Yorker*. Buckner's work is also in numerous public and private collections.

George Billis Gallery, L.A. is located at 2716 S. La Cienega Blvd., between Venice and Washington Boulevards in Los Angeles and is open Tuesday-Saturday from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. The gallery opened its second location in the Culver City area of Los Angeles in 2004 and marks its 12th year in the Chelsea arts district in New York City. George Billis shows work by both emerging and established artists. For more information please contact the Gallery via e-mail at LA@georgebillis.com or visit our website at www.georgebillis.com.

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