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MERLIN CARPENTER
A Roaring RAMPAGE of Revenge

November 12 – December 18, 2005

Reena Spaulings Fine Art is pleased to present *A Roaring RAMPAGE of Revenge*, an exhibition of new work by Merlin Carpenter.

For this show, thirty-two paintings were produced on site during the weeks leading up to the opening. Enlisting the gallerists as his assistants, the artist instructed them to paint quick pseudo-abstractions (“in the style of Josh Smith,” another Reena Spaulings artist) based on news images of the 9/11 explosions and collapse of the World Trade Center. Superimposed over these are a year’s worth of Reena Spaulings press material, painted by Carpenter one Xerox per canvas. The series is presented as a single, leaned stack – the complete gallery press pack (through summer 2005). Viewers are invited to browse through the stack at their leisure.

The thirty-two paintings can be viewed as a sort of “portrait of the gallery as a young artist,” like the image Carpenter has chosen for the show’s poster invite – an early photograph of Andy Warhol shopping at Gristedes.

Merlin Carpenter is from London. This show follows up his 2003 exhibition at American Fine Arts, Co., *Children of the Projects*. He has also recently had solos at Distrito 4 in Madrid, Bergen Kunsthall in Norway and at Christian Nagel, Cologne.