

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

JOSH SMITH

at

Reena Spaulings Fine Art
371 Grand Street
NYC 10002

March 14th – April 24th 2005
Opening: Monday, March 14th, 11am - 4pm

Reena Spaulings Fine Art presents *Make It Plain*, an exhibition of new paintings by Josh Smith. Recalling early experiments with installation art by the Surrealists, Smith fills the gallery with fifty hand-stained wooden bar stools, which simultaneously invite and impede views of eight large “mirror paintings” and several small “palette paintings.” Smith’s mirrors are painted-over rejects, colorful traces of which remain at the edges and suggest ornate frames around an opaque “reflection.” The palettes are literally palettes, displaying the rough, sticky pools and piles of pigment that remain from other, un-shown works. The shiny black mirrors reflect nothing in particular. The rough, skin-like surfaces or open faces of the palettes give us nothing but the traces of another painting’s labor, everything that’s missing, unthought and unseen in the mirrors, for example.

Both series of paintings confront the viewer with material overloads, building fresh images with the recycled remains of other works. So Smith’s abstraction comes in a second-hand way. The mirrors are two paintings. The palettes are paintings too.

What Smith makes plain is that one painting always hides another. Happy and blind, these works put it all on the surface, where everything is exploding.

Gallery Hours: Thursday through Sunday, noon to 6 pm.
Info: 212 477 5006 371_grand@earthlink.net

