

“add and subtract”

**Curated by bkprojects
Beth Kantrowitz
On View January 16 – February 14, 2008
Gallery Kayafas
450 Harrison Avenue, Boston, MA**

Featuring work by Helga Felleisen, Roberta Paul, Mia Pearlman and August Ventimiglia

Four artists with different approaches to the process of adding to or taking away from the surface are exhibited in the show “add and subtract.” All demonstrate minimalist characteristics. They believe this allows the viewer to experience the work with limited “distractions” such as an over commitment to composition, color, theme, etc.

Helga Felleisen uses layers of cut paper to create images that are reminiscent of the familiar (embroidery patterns or decorative arts). By cutting out portions of the images, she allows the viewer literally to “fill in the blanks.”

Roberta Paul uses the words “before and after” as a means of contemplating what is added and subtracted in the process of transforming the “before” into the “after.” “what was and what is.” In a collaboration with her late father, who suffered from a degenerative brain disorder, she examines who he was and who he became.

Also deploying cut paper, as well as graphite and paint, is Mia Pearlman, whose “cloudscapes” depict a seemingly sublime cloud world. Pearlman adds and subtracts cloud formations to and from each other and removes terrestrial reference points in order to, as she says, “transform the viewer’s role.”

August Ventimiglia uses sandpaper, a product used to wear away surfaces, as canvas itself. He constructs his drawings by working chalk into the grit of the sandpaper until the surface is saturated. Both additive and subtractive, the process results in a smooth, matte surface.

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