

DUTCH KILLS

g a l l e r y

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Exhibition: *CONSUMPTION/CONSEQUENCE*
Recent Paintings by Whitey Flagg and Herman James
Dates: Saturday, April 11 – Sunday, May 3, 2009
Reception: Saturday, April 11, 6 – 9 pm
9 pm: Sound Compositions and Improvisations by *AcHT(eN)*
10 pm: Guitar and Live Effects by *The Shooting Star Experiment of Lights*

New York, NY – March 26, 2009

Dutch Kills Gallery is pleased to present a co-exhibition of the work of **Whitey Flagg** and **Herman James**. Although the two artists differ in their aesthetic temperaments, they share a regard for our planet's ecosphere that is both analytical and illustrative, and they each present their reflections on the degradation of the environment due to atmospheric emissions brought forth through human activity.

Whitey Flagg's large paintings are direct interpretations of carbon emissions, ozone levels and energy flow, as well as other statistical documentation of ongoing threats to the environment. His paintings are abstractions that function as grandly beautiful informational charts that become ciphers for our understanding of the impact of our global consumption. Each retinally charged work remains in the viewer's mind as a potent reminder of the environmental concerns espoused by the artist.

In addition to being an artist, Whitey Flagg has been an independent curator and gallerist in Paris, New York, Los Angeles, Palm Springs, and Seattle. He was highly influential in the creation of the long running multi-media event *Welcome to the Plastic Factory* in Los Angeles, which fostered countless young artists, musicians, DJs and fashion designers. He was also one of the original founders of *Ivy Paris* which is still in existence today as a resource for expatriate artists in Paris. His work has been shown throughout the U.S. and the E.U. He maintains a studio in New York City.

Herman James' paintings are also informed by the environmental degradation created by our global emissions into the atmosphere. His work for Dutch Kills Gallery is part of his larger study called "Loaded Landscapes" that explores psychological aspects of the representation of landscape and their connections to our deepest impulses, aspirations and ambitions. In the pieces for the gallery this month, generally titled *Melt*, the artist poses "what if" scenarios that illustrate current scientific thinking about the consequences of global warming. The situations he depicts are over the top and darkly humorous. Like Flagg, he seems to understand that memory is best served when the mind is given something extraordinary to command reflection.

Herman James has shown widely in the U.S. in such venues as the Museum of New Art in Detroit, the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh, Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas, as well as in many venues in New York City including the Joyce Goldstein Gallery and the Monique Goldstrom Gallery. The artist has also shown in a number of venues in the E.U., including Berlin, Germany and Paris, France. In 2007, his work in collage was part of a traveling exhibition in the U.S., the E.U., and through the islands of New Zealand. His work is included in collections in New York City, Los Angeles, Boston, Berlin, Paris, Munich and elsewhere. He also maintains a studio in New York City.

AcHT(eN) is the musical collaboration of Jennifer Leigh Aschoff and David Barth Penn. Their work blends cello, flute and keyboards into shapes and patterns, sewing together musical stories to inspire and welcome you into sound, art, music and composition. *PoWNS* is AcHT(eN)'s first full length LP. An edition of 300, they are handmade from homemade stamps, cuts, folds, and coffee dyes.

The Shooting Star Experiment of Lights is Kurtis Kouns, a New York City based composer and performer who primarily uses guitar and live effects to create an array of ambiance and melodies. Often creating performances based on a single instrument alone, he explores the range of experimentation through minimal use of sound and technology.

Dutch Kills Gallery is a contemporary exhibition space that presents new work of various media from artists with a diverse set of creative practices that draw on the energy of the rapidly evolving artistic hub of Long Island City. The gallery is committed to fostering a rigorous and open community as well as providing a place for experimentation and interaction. In addition to monthly exhibitions, programming at the gallery includes frequent performances, screenings and events.