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“XXXXX BBB XXXXXXFFFFFF FFF”

Wade Guyton and Kelley Walker

May 8 – July 3, 2004

Midway Contemporary Art is pleased to announce the opening of an exhibition featuring work from two New York-based artists Wade Guyton and Kelley Walker this May. This will be the first major presentation of a new series of collaboratively produced paintings and works on paper. It will also be the Midwestern premiere for both artists, whose work has been gaining increasing attention over the past year: Guyton is currently featured in the Whitney Biennial and Walker recently had his first solo exhibition at Paula Cooper Gallery in New York. The exhibition will open on May 8th and run through July 3rd. There will be an public reception for the artists on Saturday, May 8th from 7 - 9 pm.

The exhibition, entitled “XXXXX BBB XXXXXXFFFFFF FFF presents a series of recently completed paintings and works on paper, collaboratively produced by Guyton and Walker. This work builds on the overlapping interests that each artist shares in hybrid uses of computer technology and mechanical reproduction, appropriation strategies, and the shifting status of objects and images.

The works in the exhibition suggest an oblique, organizational logic that governs both their formation and the relationships with one another as a group. On one hand, by the very nature of the works’s recurring imagery, media, and uniform size, they operate in a standard serial arrangement. However, as in each of their individual practices, these paintings and drawings also have a transient and stuttering quality that suggests a more self-reflexive process of representation, and interacting events. Employing digital scanning, silk-screening, spray-painting, direct cutting, and computer ink-jet printing, the work yields complex, and often times competing, visual strategies. Abstract forms, dense color fields, and appropriated text highlight and obscure imagery which ranges from a serrated-knife blade, designer couches, a private jet, and a photograph by the the Swiss collaborative team Fischli and Weiss.

In one grouping of framed drawings in the exhibition, an image of a designer couch is repeated on five separate sheets of paper. The image, culled from a magazine advertisement from the Italian furniture company ICF Design, presents a carefully constructed spatial composition that is sharply counteracted by bursts

of blue, black, and white spray-paint that visually fan out from sharply delineated lines cut into the paper. Similarly to the other works in the show, the artists have fed the original advertisement through a computer software editing program to invert the image and to cut, paste, and repeat the logo, before reproducing it. But it is the slicing of the physical material itself, and the washes of color, that suggests other readings of the work beyond it beyond the processes of appropriation. In cutting the paper and raising up one side of the drawing to quickly spray between the gap onto the image itself, the artists have enabled the work to operate as a stencil upon itself. This action opens up a literal spatial dimension that indexes the drawing process itself and enables the work, like the others in the exhibition, to function in a more critical relationship, enabling them to be constitutive of themselves and one another.

Wade Guyton, born in Hammond, Indiana in 1972, lives and works in New York City. He received his MFA from Hunter College, New York City, NY. He has exhibited at the Power House, Memphis, TN; the Project, Los Angeles, CA; Artists Space, New York City, NY; Secession, Vienna, Austria; Anton Kern Gallery, New York City, NY; Andrew Kreps Gallery, New York City, NY, and at the Whitney Museum of American Art.

Kelley Walker, born in Columbus, Georgia in 1969, resides and works in New York City. He received his BFA from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He has exhibited at Paula Cooper Gallery, New York City, NY; Greene Naftali, New York City, NY; P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, New York City, NY; the Project, Los Angeles, CA; Anton Kern Gallery, New York City, NY; and at John Connelly Presents, New York City, NY. He is represented by Paul Cooper Gallery in New York.