

GALLERY N. VON BARTHA
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JAMES HOWELL

Ten Progressions

September 25th until October 30th, 2004

Opening: Friday September 24th, from 6 to 9 pm

Gallery N. von Bartha is delighted to announce the forthcoming exhibition of recent works by James Howell. The show will be on view from September 25th until October 30th 2004. A catalogue with an essay by Joan Waltemath has been published to accompany James Howell's first solo exhibition in the UK. Entitled "Ten Progressions". The installation will contain paintings from the American artist's current "Series Ten".

The exhibited groups of paintings form part of the ongoing Series Ten, which James Howell started in 1996. Until today this Series includes close to four hundred paintings and works on paper. Howell regards each painting as a part of the larger Series. The entire Series being a single work about one property of paint.

In a recent lecture James Howell remarks: "The content of Series Ten is movement of a grey toward light and dark. I have reduced the opposition of the light and dark edges of it. The paintings in different scales are arranged in sets and sequences of work. Since 2000 I have been working on close four part progressions.

The gradation is limited in each painting. It is lightest at the top of each painting becoming darkest at the bottom. The movement of the grey is accomplished through varied mixtures of paint."

James Howell's continuing study of these very subtle modulations teeters on the edge of perceptibility. It reveals the artist's intention to explore the unlimited possibilities within what at first appears to be a very simple set of boundaries, between light and dark.

In between these boundaries the viewer becomes engaged in a unprecedented visual reality. Howell remarks on the state of in between as "the limits man sets for exploration, which become the potential for his discovery".

The aspect of movement is a major element of both the Series and each individual work. It's this movement and its blur that creates a sense of range rather than a measurable space. Each panel is a single section within the Series; in turn each reveals a sequence that finds its parallel in time as well as change.

The exhibition is on view until October 30th; gallery opening hours are Thursday to Saturday 11am to 5pm. For further information, digital repro quality images or to receive a copy of the catalogue please contact Niklas or Daniela von Bartha at 020 7985 0015 or info@vonbartha.com