

Neil Gall The Outward Urge

Opening: Friday, September 5th 2008
7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Duration: September 6th – October 18th 2008

Location: ScheiblerMitte, Charlottenstraße 2
(in the alley), 10969 Berlin



Trouble with Lichen, 2008
oil on canvas, 66 x 72 in.

Shimmering foils, erotic wrappings, supple velvet, dimstore paintings, and sticky tape are the sensual and at times sinister elements in the paintings of the Scottish artist Neil Gall. Stunning and unsettling, Gall's works depict nonsensical narratives woven from shreds of contemporary culture culled from found material. Each substance exhibits its own movement and tactility within the complex compositions, leading the viewer into and out of the painting: A feather quivers outward. Ribbons snake their way across the canvas. Tape clings, constricts, slashes – alternately erotic and aggressive. The gaze rests on a distant pastoral landscape, then abruptly breaks through the trompe l'oeil surface below to the gallery wall behind it. Gall's pull on our senses allures and deceives us on several levels.

Equally multifarious, Neil Gall's working process employs media that reference and enrich one another – collage, photography, assemblage, drawing, painting and sculpture. In work-intensive steps that transpose the object from one medium to the next, the surface is rendered in exquisite detail. The hyperrealistic representation of mundane subject matter paradoxically approaches an abstraction verging on the fantastic, even monstrous. The titles of his works, borrowed from obscure British science fiction novels, reflect Gall's interest in the presence of the surreal amidst the commonplace.

His first exhibition in Germany at ScheiblerMitte showcases large-scale oil paintings and new sculptures – painted resin castings of objects that once served as models for his paintings, thus bringing the self-referencing work process full circle.

Neil Gall (*1967, Aberdeen) studied at the Slade School of Art in London, where he lives and works. Recent publications include the monograph *Shelf Life* (2007) and *Collage: Assembling Contemporary Art* (2008), both from Black Dog Publishing.