The works in this exhibition progress, in gradual steps, from abstraction to representation. At its departure point are small paintings by Lesley Vance, whose enamel-like surfaces—at times brittle, porous, or wilting—point to the traditions and refinements of the still-life genre, while also incorporating gestural abstraction. The late Stan VanDerBeek, a pioneer experimental filmmaker and live-action animator, also made a series of paintings on wood panels. In the fifties, VanDerBeek achieved widespread recognition in American avant-garde film and envisioned a utopian fusion of art and technology. However, his work always maintained a link to the hand-made, and these small works evoke both a children’s storybook and the organic forms of nature. Finally, Sam Moyer’s sculpture and photographs continue a juxtaposition between the natural and the artificial, and move one step farther from abstraction: a house of cards made with photocopied images of a rock are shown alongside new photographs depicting Willie Nelson at the end of a concert, in the haze and halo of concert lights.
Sam Moyer was born in 1983 in Chicago, and she currently lives and works in Brooklyn. She recently completed her second solo show which took place in Berlin with Max Hans Daniel. Moyer has presented work in several New York and Brooklyn galleries including Andrew Kreps, Rachel Uffner Gallery, V&A Gallery, Cleopatras and The Journal.

Lesley Vance was born in 1977 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and she lives and works in Los Angeles. She has exhibited at The Suburban, Oak Park, Illinois; Aspen Art Museum, Aspen; and Gallery 400, University of Illinois at Chicago; in addition to galleries throughout the US and Europe.

Stan VanDerBeek was born in 1927 in New York and died in 1984. His experimental films have been exhibited at Sassa Trülzsch, Berlin; Guild & Greyshkul, New York; Contemporary Arts Museum Houston; Kunsthalle Düsseldorf; MUMOK, Vienna; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; and Tate Liverpool; among others.

Image:

Lesley Vance

Untitled (3), 2009
Oil on linen, 20 x 14 inches
All works courtesy of the artist and David Kordansky Gallery, Los Angeles

General support for the Contemporary’s exhibitions program is generously provided by the Whitaker Foundation; The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts; William E. Weiss Foundation; Nancy Reynolds and Dwyer Brown; Regional Arts Commission; Missouri Arts Council, a state agency; Arts and Education Council; and members of the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis.