

(February 3 – 14)

2— The Front Room

GREG PARMA SMITH & ZIN TAYLOR



Greg Parma Smith is a New York-based painter who takes equally from the tradition of still-life painting and from generic commercial photography. Smith's canvases invoke the joy of painting but still contain the plastic numbness of design, decoration, and consumption, and if they seem to promise creative fulfillment, they are only hermetic factures. In *The Front Room*, Smith presents *Colored Pencil Techniques*. For Smith, the colored pencil looks promising but doesn't deliver: on the one hand, it takes considerable effort to master, and on the other, will always be a dry and seemingly determined form. Inevitably, colored pencil resists painterly virtues such as spontaneity and expression, becoming a melancholic medium that, while by all practical measures inferior, evokes possibility.

Alongside, Brussels-based Canadian artist Zin Taylor presents sculptures and videos based on the age-old process of making bread. For Taylor, the process of baking bread is akin to that of making sculpture. A concern for abstraction and equivalency mixes with the subjects of history, memory and environment to address the use of information as a sculptural material. Accordingly, Taylor has integrated sculpture into his work—fashioning replicas of ancient tools and a series of woodblock characters who play a role in *The Bakery of Blok*, a make-believe children's television show that traces the production of a loaf of bread by a group of wooden blocks in an abandoned bakery.

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Greg Parma Smith was born in 1983 in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. Parma Smith has had solo exhibitions at the Swiss Institute, New York and the Khastoo Gallery, Los Angeles, and his work has also been included in group exhibitions in Los Angeles and New York.

Zin Taylor was born in 1978 in Calgary, Canada, and he currently lives and works in Brussels. He has had solo exhibitions at Jessica Bradley Art + Projects, Toronto; Etablissement d'en Face Projects, Brussels, and Presentation House Gallery (PHG), North Vancouver. His work has also been included in group exhibitions at Vancouver Contemporary Art Gallery; Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery, Toronto; and Ursula Blicke Stiftung, Krachtal, Germany, among others. In June of 2009 Taylor presented the installation *The Bakery of Blok* and the *Three Forms of Unit* in a solo exhibition at Miguel Abreu Gallery, New York.

Image:

Zin Taylor, *The Bakery of Blok and the Three Forms of Unit (1st arrangement)*, 2009

Video, wood, paint, monitor, DVD player, plinths

Courtesy of the artist and Miguel Abreu Gallery New York

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