

(September 12 - 28)

2— The Front Room

REENA SPAULINGS



Reena Spaulings emerged in 2004 as the protagonist of a book authored by the artist-group Bernadette Corporation. Simultaneously an art gallery located in New York's Lower East Side and an artist making paintings, flags, postcards, films, CDs, and installations, Reena Spaulings presents herself (itself) in a variety of shifting guises: a story, a gallerist, an artist, a place, and a collective—always in an attempt to blur the distinction between identities.

Opening the Fall 2008 season of The Front Room, Reena Spaulings presents all new work. As a way to claim territory and to mark identity, flags become an apt medium for Spaulings. Her flags often feature extra accessories such as patterned fabric, plastic eagles, cables, or phone chargers, becoming both paintings and sculptures. Alongside are stacks of take-away postcards: by choosing a series of unmanned aircraft often deployed by the United States military in the Middle East, Spaulings points to her identity as a vehicle manned by invisible pilots, while also suggesting a more sinister narrative. Finally, a large-scale abstract work on paper with ink markers dominates the space. The piece is made by Lee Williams, an artist-persona invented by Reena Spaulings on the occasion of the gallery's first invitation to participate in an art fair. A native of New Mexico, Williams's work is inspired as much by her experiments with peyote as by her apprenticeship under the artist Agnes Martin. She recently abandoned straight lines and grids for circles and tracings of human bodies.

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Reena Spaulings was founded in 2004 and has produced publications, performances and underground dance music. The artist persona Reena Spaulings has exhibited at Kunsthalle Zürich; Museum of Contemporary Art, Miami; Henry Art Gallery, Seattle; Orchard Gallery, New York; Serpentine Gallery, London; The Power Plant, Toronto; and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, among others. Reena Spaulings Fine Art is located on Manhattan's Lower East Side.

Image:

Drone (Predator UAV), 2008

Postcard, 4 x 6 inches

Courtesy of the artist

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