

for immediate release:

september 4 - october 12, 2002

DIANA COOPER

Hidden Tracks Sabotage the Random

opening reception: saturday, september 7, 6-8 pm

An exhibition of new works by Diana Cooper will be on view beginning Wednesday, September 4 with the opening reception on Saturday, September 7, 2002.

Hidden Tracks Sabotage the Random will be Cooper's third solo exhibition at Postmasters.

Sometimes referred to as "parapaintings" Diana Cooper's works cannot be easily categorized or associated with any singular medium. The artist engages in a unique practice that combines drawing, painting, sculpture and installation. Although essentially abstract, these works suggest a narrative of cause and effect in which apparent chaos and randomness turns orderly. Cooper's elaborate three dimensional constructions convey a precarious balance between fragility and permanence. She creates quasi architectural pieces and three dimensional paintings and drawings from unorthodox materials such as foam core, felt, vinyl, post-its, pom poms, velcro, neoprene and photographs. Incorporating her own photographs is a recent development inspired in part by the elaborate instruction manuals that Cooper has been making since 1998 to accompany her installational works.

Among the works in the show, "Speedway," 2000-2002, is Cooper's most architectural piece to date. It is a free-standing, large octagonal structure, part racetrack part abstract architectural dwelling. Its sculpted parts and painted surfaces invite the viewer to inhabit it mentally. "Speedway" explores the tension between facade and interior space collapsing conventional distinctions between what is in and what is out, what is front and what is back.

Cooper creates visual hybrids, paradoxical, yet logical structures that defy the familiar languages of formalism and abstraction. In her work, there is an underlying tension between the appearance of logical systems and the manner in which they are made. The work's unabashedly handmade nature humanizes the represented structures and their interconnected parts. Cooper exposes and explores the pathos, the humor and the wonder of the constructed systems we live in, whether they be mass produced or handmade.

Diana Cooper graduated from Hunter College in New York in 1997. In the last few years her works have been shown extensively in Europe and the US. Most recent exhibitions include shows at Hales Gallery and Richard Salmon Gallery in London, and Galerie Evelyne Canus in Paris. In the United States Cooper exhibited at P.S. 1 Contemporary Art Center and Sculpture Center in New York, Institute of

Contemporary Art in Palm Beach, Contemporary Arts Center in Cincinnati, VCU University Gallery in Richmond, Virginia, Tang Museum at Skidmore College, New York, Rice University Art Gallery in Houston and numerous other institutions.