

# POSTMASTERS

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## DAVID DIAO *Demolished/At Risk*

*opening reception: saturday, may 14, 6-8 pm*

Postmasters Gallery is pleased to announce an exhibition of new works (paintings and photographs) by David Diao entitled "Demolished/At Risk". The show will be on view from May 14 until June 18 with an opening reception scheduled for Saturday, May 14 between 6 and 8 pm. This will be Diao's 9th solo show at Postmasters which has represented his work since the gallery's inception in 1985.

David Diao's paintings begin as monochromes created by the meticulous application of paint, layer by layer, color by color. These surfaces then become the grounds upon which images are configured— ciphers in the form of icons, diagrams and photographs gleaned from the history of 20th century painting and design. His subjects have ranged from high modernism— Malevich, Newman and MoMA —to pop — Bruce Lee and Hollywood. Both are treated in a manner that alternates between homage and send-up.

As a twist on the tradition of self portraiture, he has also used his personal history of sales and exhibitions to create images as well as posing himself in front of a Pollock or Matisse painting as if it were part of his own domestic environment.

More recently, he targeted some of the iconic figures and sites of modernist architecture. A visit to Philip Johnson's Glass House netted snapshots of Diao lounging in the living area. It also resulted in several works documenting the carpet that gradually shrinks in relation to the carefully placed Barcelona chairs. He memorializes a 1992 visit to Mies van der Rohe's Tugendhat House when nature called. A vintage map giving the location of the numerous modern houses in New Canaan, CT, and the sad fact that many have been demolished or are now at risk, became *Endangered Species*.

In another series, he uses the ground plan for the Green River Cemetery where Jackson Pollock is buried. He became interested in this location when he learned that many artists had reserved plots there.

The publication of *David Diao: Work 1969-2005*, from Timezone 8 Books, Beijing with an essay by Michael Corris and 60 color plates will coincide with this exhibition.

*Postmasters Gallery, located in Chelsea at 459 West 19th Street (corner of 10th Avenue), is open Tuesday through Saturday between 11 and 6 pm. Please contact Magdalena Sawon at 212-727-3323 with any questions or image requests. **www.postmastersart.com** e-mail: **postmasters@thing.net***