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PRESS RELEASE

Jimmy Baker

Sentinel

September 18 – October 23, 2010

Opening Reception Saturday, September 18th, 6-8pm



Jimmy Baker *LANL*, 2010, with oscillating, elongated rectilinear wave pattern produced by hypersonic speakers

Jimmy Baker's newest body of work entitled *Sentinel*, on view at Roberts & Tilton, represents the next installment of paintings and audio that focus on the solvent nature of technology inferred on the landscape. Digitally mined from social media sites, these anonymous amateur photographs are woven together with unusual documents of military testing. The paintings embody a visible tension, a disassociative quality as each image betrays its own quietude with subtle but impossible focal anomalies, to strange supernatural blasts of light, and paranormal novae exploding across the picture-plane. The paintings are very smooth oil renderings with contrasting areas of soft blending and modeled brushwork, replete with glossy surfaces coated in pours of oil mediums. The analog of these handmade images to digitally manipulated ones creates a paradox that is central to Baker's discussion of a post-digital world. Various audio clips have been captured, manipulated, and created to accompany the paintings as a spectre of fear and uncertainty. The audio is channeled through hypersonic speakers that were derived from military development to beam focused sonic waves like a searchlight.

These paintings refer to specific geographic areas that have housed the history of U.S. military testing and surveillance. The works stand as oblique ciphers to an ever-shifting sense of secrecy, and a continued push into the invisible (often unmanned) world of American power. As a parallel to this, the superficially austere compositions seek to hide the genetically manipulated process behind the work. While genre paintings of the landscape served to exploit the awe of nature, to incite reverence and a sense of economic promise, *Sentinel* records the residue of technology on our land, that is at once the subject and the viewer of a million lenses.

Selected exhibitions by Jimmy Baker include: Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, Ohio (solo) (2011); *The Library of Babel / In and Out of Place*, curated by Anna-Catharina Gebbers, 176 Zabłudowicz Collection, London, catalogue (group) (2010); Project Space 176, London; New Galerie de France, Paris (solo) (2010); Foxy Production, New York (solo); LISTE, Basel (solo); Weston Art Gallery, Cincinnati, Ohio (all 2008); Roberts & Tilton, Culver City, California (solo); Western Exhibitions, Chicago, IL (both 2007); Foxy Production, New York (solo) (2006); Weston-Bolling Gallery, Cincinnati, Ohio (solo) (2006); Publico, Cincinnati, Ohio; DePauw Biennial, Greencastle, IN; Black Floor Gallery, Philadelphia (all 2005).

Gallery hours are Tuesday – Saturday 11:00am – 6:00pm.

For additional information, please contact Lauren Kabakoff at lauren@robertsandtilton.com or 323.549.0223.