

ROBERTS & TILTON

5801 Washington Boulevard
Culver City, CA 90232
T 323-549-0223
F 323-549-0224
www.robertsandtilton.com
info@robertsandtilton.com



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PRESS RELEASE

Delphine Courtillot

Raptures of the Deep

November 21 - December 19, 2009

Opening reception for the artist: Saturday, November 21st, 6 to 8pm

In her second exhibition at the gallery, Delphine Courtillot has created a series of paintings on paper that play with an iconography inspired by the popular codes of "mysterious" representation in cinema history wherein specific visual conventions suggest the inexplicable.

In these paintings, Courtillot references both the Art Nouveau movement or *Jugendstil*, German for *Youth Style*, as well as early 20th century Amsterdam architectural heritage. Allusions are evident in Courtillot's depiction of specific buildings including the Tuschinski movie palace, a landmark of the Amsterdam School (an architectural movement largely influenced by Expressionism that started in the Netherlands around 1910,) the Tiffany Lamp Studio, an inscrutable store possessing the allure of a turn-of-the-century bourgeois apartment stuffed with the celebrated lamps, as well as the famed Dijssehof room in the Central Museum in The Hague (Dijssehof, a Dutch designer very close to the Arts & Crafts movement, utilized traditional woodcarving and batik techniques to constitute an almost medieval décor, ultimately creating an enchanted dream world within the literal space of a living room.)

Courtillot capitalizes on what she calls a "very strong phantasmagorical potential," dramatizing interior spaces by creating a tension between objects, simultaneously illuminating and darkening the corners, reflecting back to the viewer a world seemingly at odds with itself, balanced somewhere between fantasy and imminent catastrophe. The darkness in these paintings appears manufactured and the light that suffuses each work seems to have derived from a far off world; yet the specificity of each of these interiors, the particularity of the shapes and strangely drained out colors, grounds these images in a specific historical moment in time. Courtillot is in essence "reenacting interior space," assigning it new meaning, amplifying the "artificial sublimated nature of the space" creating an alternate dreamscape.

The paintings included in *Raptures of the Deep* dramatize literal historical space, creating meaning not through the literal image itself but through association, the juxtaposition of implied space. Ultimately, the meaning does not reside in the picture itself, but is created at the very moment when the viewer associates himself with the representation.

Delphine Courtillot was born in Paris, France in 1972 and currently resides in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Courtillot has shown at Tilton Gallery in New York and Annet Gelink Gallery in Amsterdam and ASPN, in Leipzig, Germany and her work was included in *Ophelia; sehnsucht, melancholie en doodsverlangen*, Museum voor Moderne Kunst, Arnhem, The Netherlands, as well as the seminal exhibition *Against Nature*, curated by Astrid Honold at the Luis Adelantado Gallery in Valencia, Spain, among others.

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

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

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