



GEORGE SCHNEEMAN
October 16 – November 22, 2003

“An allegorist by disposition, Schneeman brings out the characteristic drama of each scene, keeping it from being merely a view or *bella vista*, and projecting more of what he calls “spatial sentiment.”

-- Bill Berkson
Exhibition Curator

Exhibition curator, art critic, and one of California’s premier poets, Bill Berkson is quite well versed in cross-pollinations between poets and writers. Having collaborated with Frank O’Hara and Philip Guston, his choice of George Schneeman for exhibition at CUE was both informed and personal. Both share a love of poetry and a dedication to the enduring, evolving narrative of the landscape.

Schneeman’s latest works are paeans to the undisturbed beauty of the San Giovanni d’Asso countryside southeast of Siena. He chose to work in tempera for its deliberate and definite qualities, and its rigorous technical requirements, high key and cool tonality in homage to the Siennese masters. Embracing the media’s fundamental physical limitations requires clarity in formulation and exemplifies the artist’s skillful choice of scale and subject. Schneeman’s panels average twelve by nine inches and were completed on location in half-hour sittings on carefully gessoed plywood panels.

Schneeman first lived in Tuscany from 1958 to 1966 and resumed his residency there in the 1990s after revisiting the Tuscan countryside. But it was only in San Giovanni that he discovered an intricate, hilly landscape with small woods scattered throughout the slopes, heightened by dramatic seasonal color variations resulting from the golden hues of summer wheat, and later, the lush greens and reddish woods in winter. Little has changed there since the time of rural Etruscan settlements. Leveling or bulldozing of the land has been prohibited, and woods are carefully harvested. In his choice of tempera to achieve permanence, Schneeman also acknowledges the time-honored techniques employed to preserve this idyllic, yet formidable soil.

George Schneeman was born in St. Paul, MN. He graduated with a BA degree in Philosophy and Literature from St. Mary's. Over the past forty years or more, Mr. Schneeman has explored a variety of media, from portraits of his family and friends on canvas and in portable frescoes on cinder blocks, collages and paintings based on collages, to painted ceramics, and countless cover designs and drawings for books of poetry and little magazines. He has also devoted considerable time to hands-on collaborations with poets including Bill Berkson, Ted Berrigan, Ron Padgett, and Anne Waldman in various media. George Schneeman taught Fresco painting from 1979 to 1985 at Skowhegan School, ME, Tyler College, PA, and at the Parsons School of Design, NY.

(over, please)

CUE Art Foundation is a non-profit organization that provides deserving artists from around the country an opportunity for solo exhibition. Located in New York's Chelsea gallery district, the Foundation's 2,000 sq.ft. ground floor exhibition space affords these artists professional exposure comparable to that offered by neighboring commercial galleries, without the usual financial restraints. CUE does not promote a particular school of artistic thought or practice; rather, the criteria for selection have been devised with the sole purpose in mind of exhibiting work by artists who have not had a solo exhibition in a commercial venue or have received minimal exposure in New York in the last ten years.

For additional information, please contact Jeremy Adams, Gallery Director/ Sandhini Poddar, Gallery Assistant, CUE Art Foundation, (212) 206-3583.

Upcoming exhibitions:

December 3 – January 24

Aristedes Logothetis: Selected by William Fagaly

James Cobb: Selected by Jimmy Santiago Baca

January 29 – March 6

David Storey: Selected by Trevor Winkfield

Adrian Esparza: Selected by Kate Bonansinga