

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 6, 2010

Richard Blackwell "Grotto V2"

December 10, 2010 – January 15, 2011

opening reception: December 10th from 6-8 pm

Artist in attendance

Free and open to the public

The **EC Gallery** (Chicago) is pleased to present an exhibition of new works by **Richard Blackwell "Grotto V2"**. An opening night reception will be held at the EC Gallery, 215 N. Aberdeen, Friday, December 10, 2010, 6-8 pm.

"Grotto" is a body of work presented in 3 volumes. Volume 1 exhibited this fall at M16 ARTSPACE, Canberra, Australia; "Grotto V2" is currently on display at EC Gallery and "Grotto V3" will be shown at Flinders Lane Gallery in Melbourne, Australia in April 2011.

Grotto is by definition a journey into ornamentation, a structure in which threads of reality combine to link the experience. Richard Blackwell examines this context as a retreat, a customary interior from which to interpret the world. The degree of remove between observation and translation locate Grotto in the vicinity of the contemporary cave, a retreat in which the screen is now established as the ritual enabler of images. Blackwell's virtual caves invite discovery, but are pleurably disconnected from a tour of established relics. Although 'Under Construction' Blackwell's sites are very much open for inspection, while the archaeology of Grotto's conduits is positively suspended between the physical retreat and virtual refuge, a lapse in recognition is now a function of ones location.

Richard's grotto is a fabrication. His caves and asteroids refer to material in the world whilst steadfastly remaining in the virtual world and really only able to enter our space on the surface of materials that are thin and flat: MDF, veneers, digital projections or paper. Richard' structures and shapes are visually compelling, geological yet strongly abstract, physically present yet illusory.

Richard Blackwell (b. 1987, Canberra, Australia) lives and works in Australia. In 2009 Blackwell was awarded a prestigious 'New Work' grant by the Australia Council for the Arts and will be displaying the results in a multitude of solo efforts in the following years. Blackwell graduated with honours and a University medal from the Printmedia+Drawing Department of the Australian National University in 2008. His work has been featured in shows around the Australia, including exhibitions at the Perth Institute of Contemporary Art in early 2009 and more recently group and solo shows at Flinders Lane Gallery in Melbourne, M16 artspace in Canberra and at the Canberra Contemporary Art Space's annual emerging artists show BLAZE:4.

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.

For more information on Richard Blackwell "Grotto V2" please contact Ewa Czeremuszkina at info@ec-gallery.com or call 312.850.0924