

BETTY CUNINGHAM GALLERY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CORE

Jake Berthot, Forrest Bess, Alfonso Fratteggiani Bianchi, Suzan Frecon,
John Lees, Robert Therrien, Alison Wilding, Christopher Wilmarth

Dates: March 19 – May 2, 2009



Alison Wilding
CORE II, 1985
Rubber, brass and lead
7 ½ x 156 x 82 in.

New York, NY – February 7, 2009 – Betty Cuningham Gallery is pleased to announce a group exhibition, titled *Core*, featuring works by Jake Berthot, Forrest Bess, Alfonso Fratteggiani Bianchi, Suzan Frecon, John Lees, Robert Therrien, Alison Wilding and Christopher Wilmarth, from March 19 through May 2, 2009 at 541 West 25th Street, New York City.

The work for this exhibition was selected with the directive of finding a mysterious, psychological or personal center. “Core” refers to the center, the soul or the heart (as in French “Coeur”). The title, *Core*, is taken from a particular work in this exhibition by **Alison Wilding**. The Wilding sculpture measures 156 inches in length: a thin, oval, rubber sheet, interrupted by a hand cut opening next to which is placed a polished brass vessel.

The **Christopher Wilmarth**, *Portrait of a Memory*, 1985, is composed of a blown, black glass “head” against a bronze grid. This sculpture is one of three portraits done by the artist in the last years of his life. The painting by **John Lees** is also a self portrait. Characteristically, Lees labors on a painting for several years. As if digging into his soul, Lees worked on this painting from 1980 – 2008.

Robert Therrien’s deeply psychological piece *The Black Cloud*, from 1999-2000, is one of a series, composed of three circles (reminiscent of Therrien’s snowman paintings) made of wood and painted black,

looming high overhead. **Jake Berthot's** early painting *Egypt*, from 1972, expands a dark field, bracketed by the artist's green notched frame. And a second Berthot, from 2007, shares the same mysterious and challenging darkness from which a barely visible tree reveals itself. A painting by **Forrest Bess**, characteristically small, "the size of his head", reflects his interior visions that he experienced since childhood, echoing a deep self awareness.

Alfonso Fratteggiani Bianchi is represented by four rectangular limestone slabs, hand colored with pigment. Bianchi, the most minimal of the artists included, alludes to a reductive pure interior.

Finally three works on paper by **Suzan Frecon**, undated, sepia red or antique blue ink on antique Indian ledger paper, and an oil painting achieve an intimacy and a monumentality that is only shared in dreams.

Core will be on view from March 19 – May 2, 2009.

For further information, artist biographies and/or photographs, please contact the gallery at 212.242.2772 or info@bettycunninghamgallery.com