

**55 M E R C E R
G A L L E R Y**

For Immediate Release

**STEPHEN MARCH:
*TRIBES AND
OTHER RECENT WORKS***

Tuesday, May 22 – Saturday, June 16, 2007

Reception for the artist: Saturday, June 2, 6 – 8 pm

55 Mercer Gallery is pleased to present an exhibition of recent works by Stephen March. This, the fourth solo exhibition of Stephen March's work presented by 55 Mercer Gallery, features mixed media works from his ongoing *Tribes* series. Also included in this exhibition are a number of individual paintings connected to other continuing series in his body of work.

Spanning more than three decades, March's work is known for addressing contemporary political, social, and spiritual issues and events, especially in the context of crisis. March has been, and continues to be, interested in creating visual art that can transcend the physicality of the material surface and be a vehicle for emotional, spiritual, and intellectual contemplation, as well as a metaphor for human existence during his lifetime.

The *Tribes* series of works have been prompted by a desire to visually explore groups of people with different or opposing interests, beliefs, and agendas existing in conflict. The works consist of two or more humanly-scaled rectangular panels, and involve surfaces of natural and/or manufactured materials including tree bark, soil, cowhide, sugar, veneer brick, vinyl siding, and carpet, in addition to traditional acrylic paint and mediums. *Tribes VIII*, for example, combines one panel with the rough surface of vertical natural tree bark set against another panel with horizontal manufactured vinyl siding. In a similar diptych, *Tribes IX*, a panel with tree bark of a different species, coexists next to a panel with manufactured horizontal veneer brick and mortar. *Tribes XI* exhibits two distorted American flag panels, vertically oriented in opposite directions, each covered with a different color of acrylic translucent skin.

As a departure from the *Tribes* works, the large individual painting entitled *Almost Forgotten News (January 17, 2006)*, is an expression of the pixelated surface of a color television screen that transmitted the image of hostage and journalist Jill Carroll and her Iraqi abductors.

In a personal response for this exhibition, artist and art historian Marcy B. Freedman states, "I am grateful to Stephen March for creating artworks that are visually satisfying, intellectually provocative, and emotionally challenging."

55 MERCER GALLERY

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Gallery Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 10-6

Photo images available upon request. For more information, please contact Stephen March at 717-225-1932 or samarch@netrax.net