

Marlborough

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STEPHEN TALASNIK

Drawings and Sculpture

March 8-April 8, 2006

The Directors of Marlborough Gallery are pleased to announce the gallery's first exhibition of drawings and sculpture by Stephen Talasnik, whose work will be exhibited at 40 West 57th Street, New York, from March 8 to April 8, 2006.

Drawings and Sculpture will feature three recent bodies of graphite work depicting uniquely individual structures, floating cities and majestic urban landscapes. Three recent sculptures will also be on view.

Born in Philadelphia, Talasnik developed an early interest in architecture and engineering, which was inspired by the bridges, tunnels, oil refineries, and sports stadiums that were a part of his neighborhood. Inherently fictional, Talasnik's remarkable works allude to the real, while being rooted in invention and intuitive engineering. Inspired by the history of "fantastic" industrial design, space travel and architecture of specific function, information art such as narrative scrolls, manuscripts, blueprints, analytical drawings and typographical design also serves as a reference point.

Talasnik is particularly interested in the process of invention. Depicting a "fictional engineering," he relies on intuitive math to create meticulous and intricate works that pay homage to the history of building and transportation. Primarily intrigued with structures that defy gravity, he creates a system of engineering that is infused with a curiosity for the otherworldly.

The drawings, rendered exclusively in graphite, feature a complex layering of images achieved through a combination of drawing, frottage, erasure and abrasion. With their dramatic chiaroscuro effects, the drawings take on a visionary dimension, grounding the work with a sense of futuristic design.

Talasnik's sculptural works are a natural outgrowth of his drawings. Two works in bronze and one in silverplate will be included in the exhibition. These pieces appear to be three-dimensional renderings of aspects of the drawings. Like the drawings, the sculptures are all based on architectural structures. *Cenotaph*, a 28 in. diameter bronze, is a globe-shaped work inspired by Etienne-Louis Boullée's 1784 design for a proposed monument to Isaac Newton. The other sculptural works are a silverplated architectural dome and a bronze asymmetrical lattice-like structure, the form of which brings to mind a spinning top.

Talasnik studied fine art at both the Rhode Island School of Design and the Tyler School of Art. One year of his graduate study was spent at Tyler's program in Rome, where he was introduced to the works of Piranesi, Leonardo and Uccello, all of whom continue to influence his work. In the late 80's he lived in Tokyo where his drawings were based on the futuristic architecture of that city. Currently living and working in New York City, Talasnik's drawings and sculpture have been acquired by numerous major international collections such as the Albertina in Vienna, the British Museum, Detroit Institute of Art, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C. and the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam.

The opening reception will be held on March 8, 2006 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at Marlborough Gallery, 40 West 57th Street, New York, New York. Concurrently, the exhibition *Frank Auerbach: Recent Work* will be held in the main gallery. For further information, please visit the gallery's website at marlboroughgallery.com.

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