

The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum

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Jim Dingilian, *The Unexpected Signal*, 2011
Courtesy of the artist and McKenzie Fine Art, New York

Jim Dingilian Subtractive Images

January 29 to June 10, 2012

Ridgefield (January 2012): For the past decade, Jim Dingilian has developed a body of work in which he skillfully renders ephemeral imagery by hand on found objects.

The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum will present his first solo museum exhibition, *Subtractive Images*, from January 29 to June 10, 2012, bringing together three series of works in which the artist has utilized modification by subtraction to produce optically realistic representations.

The earliest series, ongoing since 2001, is of landscape drawings made on found school desktops. These were followed in 2007 by a series, continued to the present, of landscape drawings rendered on the smoked interior surfaces of glass bottles. The newest series, begun in 2011, presents figurative “portraits” pointedly resembling daguerreotypes, made of manipulated aluminum beverage cans. What they all have in common is the painstaking removal of material—respectively graphite, soot, and metal—in the process utilized to render their imagery.

Curator Richard Klein explains, “Dingilian has made the marginal, man-made landscape environments at the edges of American suburbia his primary subject matter. There he finds not just the sprawl of highways, parking lots, and weedy no-man’s lands, but also the debris of the surrounding civilization: beer cans, empty liquor bottles, and abandoned cars and furniture.”

Klein continues, “Dingilian’s work, although sharing connections with romantic nineteenth century landscape painting, doesn’t depict spiritual exaltation, but rather a more melancholic view of human experience. Haunted by a sense of nostalgia and loss, it is not simply sentimental, but rather quietly foreboding.”

The newest work in this exhibition, *The Unexpected Signal*, is the first multi-bottle piece completed by the artist, composed of a total of eleven bottles. Although each bottle contains an individual vignette carefully scraped from the soot-coated glass interior, Dingilian merged the separate images to create an ambitious panoramic view that sweeps from a shaded wooded area to an urban streetscape.

Found Opening: The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum will celebrate the opening of *Jim Dingilian: Subtractive Images* along with five other *Found* exhibitions—by artists who work with appropriated ideas and salvaged materials—at a reception for the artists on Sunday, January 29, 2012, from 3 to 5 pm (\$7 adults; \$4 seniors; FREE for members, pre-K–12 teachers, and children 18 and under). Prior to the reception the Museum will host a panel from 2 to 3 pm where artists Barrão, Jim Dingilian, Roy McMakin, and Kathryn Spence will discuss their relationships with the found objects central to their work. Onsite parking is available, as is direct round-trip transportation from New York City. Reserve your seat on the January 29 Aldrich shuttle, now leaving from a new location; please consult aldrichart.org for particulars.

Also on view: *Barrão: Mashups*, *Roy McMakin: Middle*, *Regina Silveira: In Absentia (Collection)*, *Kathryn Spence: Dirty and Clean*, and *Xu Bing: Tobacco Project*.

Sponsors: The Aldrich is supported, in part, by the Connecticut Office of the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. Art Works. The official media sponsors of exhibition openings are *Ridgefield Magazine* and WSHU Public Radio.

Artist: Jim Dingilian was born in York, PA, but spent seven years of his childhood in Waterloo, Belgium, before returning to the United States. He graduated from the University of Delaware in 1993 and completed his MFA in photography from the Rochester Institute of Technology in 1996. Dingilian has been exhibiting drawings on found objects, usually employing inventive erasure techniques, for the last decade. His work has been shown in group exhibitions at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver; the Islip Art Museum, East Islip, NY; the John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan, WI; and the deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, Lincoln, MA. Dingilian's work can be found in the permanent collections of the deCordova and the Rose Art Museum in Waltham, MA. He is represented by McKenzie Fine Art in New York.

Museum: The Aldrich is one of the few independent, non-collecting contemporary art museums in the United States, and the only museum in Connecticut devoted to contemporary art. The Aldrich is accredited by the American Association of Museums. Founded on Ridgefield's historic Main Street in 1964, the Museum concentrates its exhibition program on solo exhibitions by emerging and mid-career artists, complemented by acclaimed gallery-based education programs that use the work on view to help adults, families, and over 7,000 students annually to connect to our world through contemporary art. The Museum is located at 258 Main Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877. All exhibitions and programs are handicapped accessible. Free on-site parking. Regular Museum hours are Tuesday through Sunday, 12 noon to 5 pm. For more information call 203.438.4519.

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