

ROBERT STEELE GALLERY

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Press Release

Richard Ballard | New Watercolors

17 May – 16 June 2007

The **Robert Steele Gallery** at 511 West 25th Street between 10th and 11th Avenues in Chelsea is pleased to announce an exhibition of new watercolors by **Richard Ballard**, opening on Thursday, May 17th through June 16th, 2007. A reception for the artist will be held **Thursday, May 17th, from 6 to 8pm**. Also on view in the Gallery's Project Room will be an installation by **Timothy Paul Myers** entitled ***one million dollars***. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 11 to 6pm and by appointment.

Entitled ***Looking Up***, the exhibition will feature new large-scale watercolors continuing his *Cloud Series*, as well as several paintings from the *Pylon Series*. The juxtaposition exemplifies what has been described as the "lines and light" aspect of his work. The *Pylons*, close observations of those ubiquitous structures (think Eiffel Tower, or radio towers across the landscape) anchor the exhibition in more ways than one. The deep, angular lines - jet black with shades of blurry dark grey, sometimes with actual rust painted and rubbed into the surface, all against white grounds - become, in their way, angular clouds: these structures, almost Gothic, soar lightly to the heavens.

And it's the heavens themselves that comprise the rest of the work: very large watercolors of the skies and clouds in all their permutations: mist and menace, vapor and sunlight. A sense of mystery and suspense (no puns here) and technique, as well, co-exist: these are paintings whose inherent tension are about the tension of *being*.

Tom Breidenbach, in *ArtForum*, has written: *Ballard seems particularly concerned with the moment in which an object in a certain light can hover in a blur of perceptual uncertainty that almost allows it to disintegrate or to become something else ... Somehow we are able to peer into Ballard's paint as we might the sky itself. Among clouds, fields, forests, and shores, the light Ballard reflects seems born of the enigma of mere presence. And Again: While Ballard speaks of "the control of watercolor over the surface of paper" as "mysterious," it's a mystery he negotiates with bravura.*

Born in Liverpool, Ballard has lived and worked in Paris for the last 20 years, having shown throughout Europe, Australia and the US, and his work is included in numerous collections around the world. Recent awards include First Place in the Royal Watercolour Society's 21st Century Watercolor competition (the Royal Watercolour Society being the first and oldest watercolor association in the world).



Ciel 11, Watercolor on paper, 16x44in.



Pylon 10, Paint & rust on paper on canvas, 78x59in.

For Information Contact: