

PRESENTS

April 27 – June 4, 2007

Opening Reception:
Saturday, April 28, 6-9pm

Black & White Gallery // Williamsburg is pleased to present *Silent Longing*, a sculptural installation by Czech-born, Ohio-based artist Petra Kralickova in the indoor space and *Village Green* by New York based collaborative duo Rebecca Herman and Mark Shoffner.



PETRA KRALICKOVA

Silent Longing // indoor space
site-specific installation

SILENT LONGING explores the human body in its most abstract form. Kralickova's skillful hand transforms the gallery space into a landscape of longing that invites the viewer to examine and engage in an inescapably sensory environment. With *SILENT LONGING*, Kralickova moves beyond the distorted, life-sized ceramic figures she is known for and instead works with soft materials as a means to continue her investigation of the body's yearning for what is unattainable. Organic forms are stretched from white fabric and weighted with sand, as though they are unable to contain themselves inside their thin skin. Other pieces utilize thread that winds across spatial planes. This interconnectivity, combined with the internal echo of each individual work, allows Kralickova to successfully create a cohesive and continuous installation. The organic quality of Kralickova's materials (fabric, wax, paper, thread) further emphasizes the transient nature of the human body and the brevity of life.

Petra Kralickova received her BFA in Ceramics from Ohio University and an MFA in Ceramics from The University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth. Her work has been exhibited in solo shows at The Rosewood Art Center in Kettering, Ohio, The Sculpture Center in Cleveland, Ohio, The Charlie Cummings Clay Studio & Gallery in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and Gallery 244 in Dartmouth, Massachusetts as well as multiple group shows.



REBECCA HERMAN & MARK SHOFFNER

Village Green // outdoor space
site-specific installation

VILLAGE GREEN is an interactive sculpture based on the public pillory or "stocks" used in early colonial America - a contemporary interpretation of the rituals of punishment and public shaming.

VILLAGE GREEN is an eight-sided *Pillory*, 12 feet in width, with three circles cut out of each side to allow voluntary insertion of one's heads and hands. Up to eight people will face each other in the stocks, creating a communal-policing situation that suggests a makeshift, self-imposed jail and societal pressure for surveillance of one's fellow citizens. This modern reincarnation of the pillory refers to American desires for an idealized yet highly restrained "village" community in which society's rules are enforced in the public arena.

Another element of *VILLAGE GREEN* is *Hunting Blind*, two 12-foot tall triangular pieces that scale the high concrete walls. The imposing blinds use a naturalistic leaf pattern to mimic the forest and transpose the outdoor architecture used by hunters to this social urban setting. Visitors will be able to position themselves behind the blind for discreet viewing of the octagonal pillory.

Rebecca Herman and Mark Shoffner have collaborated on sculptures, videos, and installations since 1999. Their work has been exhibited at Sculpture Center, Exit Art, The Drawing Center, Bronx Museum of the Arts, and the d.u.m.b.o. arts under the bridge festival. They have been artists-in-residence at the Catskill Center for Conservation & Development, Platte Clove, NY and the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council. Rebecca Herman has an MFA from the Parsons School of Design and Mark Shoffner received an MFA from Queens College (CUNY)