

DIAZ CONTEMPORARY

PRESS RELEASE

Samuel Roy-Bois

Almost

Elizabeth McIntosh

Two Silver Paintings

12 January to 16 February 2008

Diaz Contemporary is pleased to present Vancouver-based artist's **Samuel Roy-Bois'** first solo-show with the gallery.

Almost is a collection of Roy-Bois' axonometric drawings of building structures which he has produced over the past five years. Presented as an organized environment for the first time, *Almost* becomes "a substitute city" of office towers and apartment of fictitious origins.

Using graphite on paper, the highly rigid affirmation of Roy-Bois' architectural lines evoke our built environment and consequently allude to the nature of our relationship with it. Challenging idealistic states of mind brought forth by utopian propositions, Roy-Bois' drawings are rooted in the ordinary, banal and imitation and question how much we are living in failed ideals.

The physicality of the drawing process is important in Roy-Bois' works. The geometry of the simple structures, their formal plans and the utopian ideals from which they arise react against the work's messiness and failures. Rendered faulty and slightly amiss, beyond the claim of the "hand-made" emerges a sense of self-appropriation of one's immediate landscape.

Accompanying Roy-Bois' drawings are two large-scale silver paintings by Canadian artist **Elizabeth McIntosh**. Complementing the architectural foundation of Roy-Bois' work, McIntosh's paintings formally explore elements of line composition and the building blocks of structural components. Rendered with a simplicity of abstract form, the rigidity of McIntosh's lines and repetition of irregular shapes pronounce her ongoing investigation of geometric abstraction.

Samuel Roy-Bois is a multidisciplinary Vancouver-based artist who is also an active musician and performer. A graduate of Laval University and Concordia University (M.F.A.), Roy-Bois originally explored painting before turning to the architectural dimension of installation. Roy-Bois has shown his work across Canada and abroad. Selected shows include: *Burrow* at Oakville Galleries (2007), *Improbable and ridiculous* at Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal (2006), *Faire l'indépendance* at Montréal's Quartier Éphémère (2005).

Elizabeth McIntosh is a Vancouver-based artist who graduated with a BFA from York University in 1992 and received her MFA from Chelsea College of Art and Design in London, UK in 1996. McIntosh's recent Canadian solo-shows include: *Young Night Thought* (Diaz Contemporary, Toronto, 2006), *Parisian Laundry*, Montreal (2007) and *Fire at Full Moon* (Blanket Gallery, Vancouver, 2007). McIntosh was also included in the group exhibition *PAINT* at the Vancouver Art Gallery (2006/07). McIntosh's work is included in notable collections such as: The National Gallery of Canada, The Perimeter Institute, The Bank of Montreal and The Royal Bank of Canada. McIntosh currently teaches painting at the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design in Vancouver.