

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Swarm Gallery is pleased to announce the upcoming exhibition

CRITICAL CHAOS | Erik Friedman + Ema Harris-Sintamarian
August 10 – 26, 2007

Reception for the Artists: Third Thursday, August 16, 2007 6-9PM

OAKLAND, Calif. – 19 July 2007 – Swarm Gallery presents a curated group exhibition “Critical Chaos,” featuring local artists Erik Friedman + Ema Harris-Sintamarian

Erik Friedman's work considers our understanding of how we use and manipulate the infinite amount of information at our disposal. Friedman, a 14-year East Oakland resident, recently began surveying “information” in his neighborhood, all interacting in relative cohesion, however abstract. Using layered ink and graphite drawings on mylar and other materials, Friedman brings to view the fractured, noisy detritus of a cultural landscape that exists in Oakland's backyard.

Similarly, **Ema Harris-Sintamarian's** work gravitates toward ideas concerning fragmentation, construction/deconstruction, and analogous structures. She parallels and fuels her ideas from various fields, methodologies, and artists. After looking at magazines and seeing how dominated they are by advertisements, her work now reevaluates the idea of identity, consumption and the politics of being a socially active human. By using different cultural iconography, and by imposing and superimposing recognizable with more abstracted similes, she creates a matrix of images. Her working process tends to be intuitive and the work is serial. By working in different media and scale, she broadens the arena of possibilities for visual narrative, creating complex diagrams of personal thoughts and scenarios.

PROJECT SPACE | Laura Kamian

Although Armenian, textile artist Laura Kamian doesn't speak the language, save for a few words: “shame,” “underwear,” and “son of a bitch.” The Armenian language has its own unique and independent alphabet, and after a recent trip to her homeland, Laura began sketching the seventy-six letters. Translating the sketches into fiber came naturally; the town of Gurun (now part of Turkey) where her family is from was famous for its fine shawl weaving.

This installation is made up of stencils of the 38 characters of the Armenian alphabet, in upper and lower case. The felted stencils are assembled to spell out words taken from memory of her grandfather's story of survival after the Armenian Genocide in 1915. The words are loaded with the symbolism of his survival: brother, cousin, mother, arsenic, spoon, orphanage, apricot, desert, antibiotics. Kamian's exploration of the alphabet gives her a new tool to celebrate the stories of her family's life and to give permanence to her memories.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS

EXHIBITION: **CRITICAL CHAOS** | Erik Friedman + Ema Harris-Sintamarian
PROJECT SPACE | Laura Kamian

DATES: August 10 – 26, 2007
Swarm Gallery is open to the public Tuesday – Sunday 12 – 6PM
Every First Friday of the month until 9PM and by appointment

ARTISTS
RECEPTION: Third Thursday, August 16, 2007 6-9PM

LOCATION: Swarm Gallery, 560 Second Street, Oakland CA 94607 www.swarmstudios.net

PRESS CONTACT AND IMAGES

Svea Lin Vezzone at 510 472 7930 svea@swarmstudios.net or Susan Chen at susan@swarmstudios.net
www.swarmstudios.net