Timothy Taylor Gallery

A Silent Poetry

16th January – 1st March 2002

Alighiero Boetti
Jean-Marc Bustamante
Bruce Conner
Jenny Holzer
Roni Horn
Cy Twombly
Joel Shapiro

Reaching into the great abyss
of the world's long night
And presuming that in the Beginning
was Darkness
and Light just the afterglow
of a red shift

The poet
fathoming the unknown
like a deep ocean trawler
drags for primal images
with gillnet wordnets out to catch
the last wild *lingua franca*
the blind fish of man's fate

- Lawrence Ferlinghetti

Alighiero Boetti, Jenny Holzer and Roni Horn displace words, phrases and sentences from their literary context to become a material and visual prompt for the viewer's imagination and intuition. The photography based images that Jean-Marc Bustamante captures are remarkable for their appreciation of poetic resonance through composition and romantic allusions. Bruce Conner's inkblots teeter like hieroglyphs on the brink of being deciphered. Joel Shapiro's sculpture reduces figurative images into a basic linear construction that communicate as an abstract language of movement and emotion. Cy Twombly's hand-drawn lines and scrawlings on a plaster white surface suggest Mallarmé's notion of the 'ideal poem, the silent poem all in white.' The work of these artists is an abstracted alphabet of communication, a silent poetry that can be intuitively understood.

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