

JAMES KELLY CONTEMPORARY - PRESS RELEASE
1601 Paseo de Peralta - Santa Fe, NM 87501 - 505.989.1601

Sherrie Levine

Nature Morte

Opening Reception: Saturday, June 30, 2007, 5:00-7:00 pm
Exhibition Dates: June 30 - August 4, 2007
Contact: Hannah Hughes: hannah@jameskelly.com



Sherrie Levine. *After Cezanne:5*, 2007. Inkjet print on paper. 13 x 19 inches.

James Kelly Contemporary is pleased to announce an exhibition of Sherrie Levine's work, 'Nature Morte.'

The exhibition will include two new bronze sculpture groups cast from found objects, entitled *The Three Muses* and *The Three Furies*, and a new series of inkjet prints *After Cezanne: 1 – 18*. Also on view will be *Parchment Knot: 1 - 12*, acrylic on plywood, 2002; *Antelope Skull*, a cast bronze sculpture from 2006; and *Steer Skull (Horned)*, from 2002.

Levine has been well known since the early 1980's for provocative work which has confronted entrenched ideas about the artistic authorship, authenticity and originality. The title of this show refers explicitly to her interest in the still-life genre. In fact she has said, "I consider myself a still-life artist, with the bookplate as my subject. I want to make pictures that maintain their reference to the bookplates. And I want my pictures to have a material presence that is as interesting as, but quite different from the originals."

For the *After Cezanne* series, she has characteristically chosen as her subject, pictures manifesting "the desire that nature and culture provide us with a sense of order and meaning." In this case, Levine takes the evidence of Cezanne's patient stroke-by-stroke engagement with nature and renders it completely abstract, using computer algorithms. Instead of Cezanne's tapestry of trees and rocks, we see a grid of color, like magnified pixels.

The title, *Parchment Knot: 1 - 12* refers literally to the painting of plywood knots with an acrylic color called Parchment. But of course the pun encompasses the conundrum of a "painting which is not", as well as an object that is "not parchment" but rather wood and paint. Levine's painting is indeed a knot of language and material, of visual pleasure and cerebral tension.

Steer Skull (Horned) has a typically dizzying range of reference, from sacred classical object, to modern icon of the desert, to contemporary curio, to luxury product. Levine evokes all of these contradictory possibilities at once.

The Three Furies, named after the avenging spirits of retributive justice, concerned with crimes such as matricide, and *The Three Muses*, named for daughters of Zeus and Mnemosyne who preside over the arts, are bronze reprisals of found folk art objects. *The Three Muses* conflates the form of three little piggy banks, one of whom "went to market," with classical ideas about the inspiration of art.

A master of re-contextualization, Levine says "I don't think it's useful to see the dominant culture as monolithic. I'd rather see it as polyphonic, with unconscious voices, which may be at odds with one another. If I am attentive to these voices, then maybe I can collaborate with some of them to create something almost new."

Sherrie Levine was born in Hazelton, Pennsylvania, grew up in St. Louis and moved to New York in 1975. She has had one-person exhibitions at the Hirshhorn Museum, Washington D.C., 1988; the High Museum of Art, Atlanta, 1988; the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, 1991; the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, 1992; and Portikus, Frankfurt, 1994, among many others. In 2005, she was one of the four artists included in *Quartet*, the opening exhibition of the new Walker Art Center in Minneapolis. Levine has recently had shows at the Chicago Arts Club (in September 2006) and the Georgia O' Keefe Museum in Santa Fe, New Mexico (in January 2007). Levine divides her time between New York City and Santa Fe.



Sherrie Levine. *The Three Muses*, 2006. Cast bronze in three parts: 6 x 9-1/2 x 5-1/2; 5-1/2 x 7-1/2 x 4-1/2; 4 x 7 x 4 inches.

James Kelly Contemporary is located at 1601 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe, NM 87501. Gallery hours for the duration of this show are Tuesday through Friday from 10:00-5:00 p.m. - Saturday from 12:00-5:00 p.m. - Monday by appointment. Please call the gallery at 505.989.1601 - fax 505.989.5005 - email hannah@jameskelly.com for more information.

- high resolution images available upon request -