

JAMES KELLY CONTEMPORARY - PRESS RELEASE

1601 Paseo de Peralta - Santa Fe, NM 87501 - 505.989.1601

ideo-gram

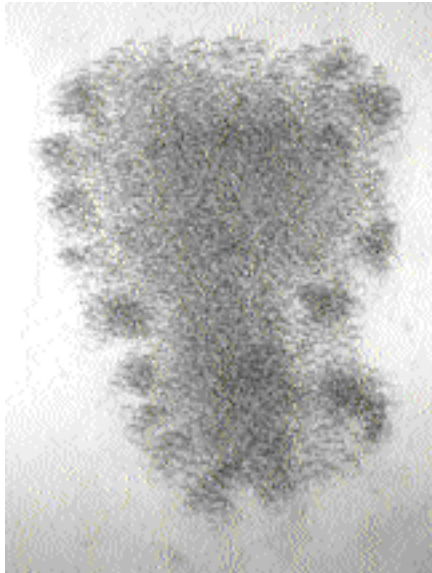
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Toadhouse

Opening Reception: Friday, June 4, 2004, 5:00-7:00 pm

Exhibition: Friday, June 4, 2004 - Saturday, July 10, 2004

Contact: David Marshall - david@jameskelly.com



graphite on paper 63 x 53 inches



detail

ideo-gram: A character or figure symbolizing the idea of a thing without expressing the name of it, such as the Chinese characters.

Toadhouse is a pseudonym used by artist Allan Graham. The name was taken from a subterranean kiva-like structure he built with his son in which Spadefoot desert toads would enter - rightfully dubbed Toadhouse. It became a place to reflect, drink tea and write poetry. Graham found inspiration in the writings of the Tang Dynasty poetry where a connection was made between toad - moon & mind. Thus Toadhouse is mindhouse, a space where thoughts take form, verbalized as visual language.

Starting with short phrase poetry, Graham approaches his paintings and drawings by obsessively covering his surface with minutely written words.

Through the repetition of this incredibly intricate text, usually a single word, Graham builds compositions in which the meaning of the written language is exemplified within the visual construction of the work. These large

scale works can be read both literally and figuratively giving insight to their meticulous elegance.

"These cosmo-logical works toss painter and beholder back and forth. What will come of this conflict, this insistent irresolution? As always with Graham this struggle is deeply embodied in the work. For him, any hesitation, any conflict, is only before the next step. It is not a conflict to be resolved by thought. The only resolution is in the next work. This disentangling promise is as intriguing as these entanglements." -Gus Blaisdell, "Black Lacquer Bucket" 2001

Graham has exhibited internationally with works in the Panza Collection and a solo exhibition at SITE Santa Fe in 2000. His work and poetry has appeared in various art magazines, numerous catalogues, as well as, 2 hard cover monographs entitled "As REAL as thinking" and "Allan Graham/toadhouse."

*life would
be
a shame
left
to description*

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James Kelly Contemporary is located at 1601 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe, NM 87501. Gallery hours are Monday through Saturday from 10:00-5:00 p.m. Please call the gallery at 505.989.1601 for more information.

- high resolution images available upon request -