

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Opening July 24 and running through August 16, 2004 The Drawing Room is pleased to present the exhibition *Wall Projects and drawings*, which will feature site specific wall installations and related drawings by British sculptor Roger Ackling and New York artists Christine Hiebert and Kate Shepherd. Selected for their fresh approach to the wall as a theatre, these three contemporary artists articulate their ideas with clarity, a resourceful economy of means and a poetic sense of space. Their materials are modest – charred driftwood, construction tape and house paint - but the impact is big.

Roger Ackling has gained international recognition for a distinct and personal approach to sculpture and drawing. He begins with salvaged wood that has washed up on beaches and with a magnifying lens as his only tool, focuses the sun's rays to burn lines of small dots, in patterns on the drift wood objects. The charred dot drawing on the surface of the sun-bleached wood has the unique quality born from Ackling's technique. The artist's discipline at hand - controlling the angle of the sunlight over and over again - slows us down to marvel at the concentration which produces objects of peaceful beauty. For the current installation, Ackling presents five miniature domes or minorettes on 1" square shelves that seem to float randomly across a large gallery wall. Upon close scrutiny of the miniature spires that appear from a distance, viewers will discover that Ackling has eschewed his earlier linear compositions in favor of burning the entire surface. Ackling has exhibited widely in Europe, Japan and the United States. His sculpture is represented in the collection of the Tate Gallery and numerous other European museums.

Christine Hiebert uses blue housepainter's tape to transform a large wall into an active surface of architecture for thinking. She brings wit and a mature language of mark making to her monumental wall drawing. Twisting, cutting, crimping, and stretching the thin blue medium, she articulates a quirky landscape. The flat whiteness of the wall is her field and the tape is her path. After three days of working on the ladder and the floor, a glorious blue drawing emerges. Her tape drawings on paper, which relate to the wall project, evoke a sense of physical freedom. Hiebert has installed wall drawings at the Drawing Center in New York, the Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum, the Krannert Art Museum and The Delaware Center for Contemporary Art. Her work is in the permanent collection of The Metropolitan Museum, the Museum of Modern Art and numerous private collections.

Kate Shepherd is well known for both her enigmatic enamel paintings and meticulously rendered graphite transfer on screenprint drawings. Interested in our experience of architecture, light and color, Shepherd's work reaches across and through defined space to evoke indoor and outdoor rooms, crop fields or stage sets. In her paintings and drawings, fine lines divide taut compositions of striking fields of color. For this exhibition, Shepherd returns to a longtime interest in creating painted illusions of light and shadow with two site-specific wall paintings conceived in response to the direct and ambient light that emanates from a skylight and large picture window in the gallery space. These lyrical and ephemeral wall paintings of real and imagined light effects sharpen our sensory experience of the nuanced spaces we inhabit. Shepherd's work is in the collection of the

M.I.T. List Visual Arts Center, the Lannan Foundation, Santa Fe and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston among many others.

Christine Hiebert and Kate Shepherd will be creating their work on site at the gallery during the week of July 20th. They will be available for interviews Thursday.

For further information or reproductions, please contact Susan Papa at 631.324.5016 or info@drawingroom-gallery.com.