

MARIANNE BOESKY GALLERY

www.marianneboeskygallery.com

Jacco Olivier

January 19 – February 17, 2007

Opening reception January 18, 2007, 6 – 8 pm

Marianne Boesky Gallery is pleased to announce the exhibition of new work by Jacco Olivier. Olivier is both a painter and a filmmaker who fuses painting and moving image to create brief, intimate animations. Painted in lush, casual strokes, each canvas is repeatedly reworked and systematically photographed at every stage of its development. The resulting films are both enigmatic and edifying – moving in and out of abstraction they reveal the traces and decisions made by the artist in the process of their painting.

To date, Olivier's works have been small-scale single projections of concise narrative episodes. In this exhibition, *Whale*, a seven-minute film, is split across three projections and spans nearly forty feet across the gallery's rear wall. Imagining a whale's movements, Olivier renders the animal disappearing and reappearing in a painterly field; at times clearly in view and at others dissolving into abstraction. Olivier observes, "all the time you are looking at a whale being painted in a tentative, exploratory motion, looking for some truth, looking for some redemption in the paint."

Olivier does not set a thematic agenda for the works, or for their relationship to one another. The films are instead imagined as windows onto converging and elegantly simple moments of daily life. In *Calling*, a village church comes into view as a bird beats its wings overhead. A phone call is made from a booth on the street and as the telephone rings, a mother and her children walk down a staircase. A pink house floats by; a figure draws back the curtain to view the world outside. This figure might be the same character by which Olivier was inspired:

"I imagine the exhibition to be about a guy behind a window of his house looking at the things outside, mixing them with his own memories and desires, with the whale upstairs representing his thoughts. That's all I need to make it work in my head, but is not necessarily something the viewer sees, or even has to see."

Jacco Olivier was born in the Netherlands in 1972, he graduated from the Rijksakademie in 1998 and lives and works in Amsterdam. This is his second solo show at Marianne Boesky Gallery. He has since had solo exhibitions at Victoria Miro Gallery, London and at Thomas Schulte, Berlin. Olivier's work was included in the 2005 Prague Biennale and group exhibitions at the Istanbul Modern; MCA Denver and Centre pour l'image contemporaine Saint-Gervais, Geneva.

Marianne Boesky Gallery is located at 509 West 24th Street, between 10th and 11th Avenues. Our hours are Tuesday to Saturday from 10am to 6pm. For further information or images, please contact Elisabeth Ivers at 212-680-9889 or lis@marianneboeskygallery.com.