

Introductions

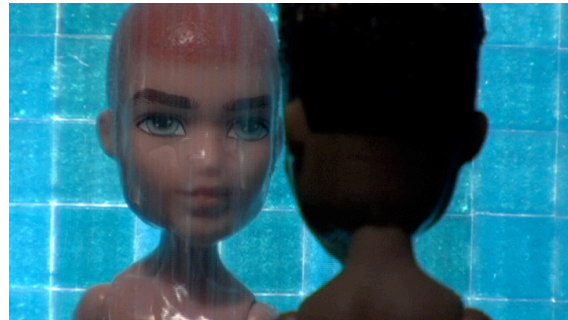
David Cabrera Selects: Dawit L. Petros

Bruce Yonemoto Selects: Bryan Jackson

June 27–September 8, 2007



Dawit L. Petros
Proposition 3: Sign, 2006
Digital Print, 26" x 36"



Bryan Jackson
Softly, 2006
Video, 7 minutes

Alexander Gray Associates is pleased to inaugurate our *Introductions* program. With *Introductions*, we draw on the vision and influence of our mid-career gallery artists; Gallery artists select emerging artists for an exhibition, exposing our audiences to new artists. In this way, we hope to reinforce the direct impact of our associated artists on intergenerational dialogues and artistic exchanges.

Gallery artist David Cabrera has selected Dawit L. Petros to exhibit his media-based work. Petros' exhibition includes photography, video, and a site-specific installation. With landscape as a primary subject and metaphor, Petros explores ideas of the post-Colonial, cultural transformation and location. Each work in the show draws from specific histories, sources and sites, including locations in Northern Canada, the "American West", and Africa. The enfolding of these locations, complete with restaging elements, documentation, and performative gesture, is the result of Petros' disciplined approach to exploring codes, signals, and language that construct identity and the collective consciousness.

Dawit L. Petros was born in Asmara, Eritrea, and received his MFA in 2007 from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. He has exhibited his work in group shows throughout Canada and in the U.S., including Wedge Gallery, Toronto; Jack Shainman Gallery, New York; Photographic Resource Center, Boston, Bagg Gallery, Boston; Harbourfront Gallery, Toronto; Observatoire, Montreal; Maison de la Culture Frontenac, Montréal; and Prefix Gallery, Toronto. He has received Fulbright and Bombardier Internationalist fellowships.

Gallery artist Bruce Yonemoto selected Bryan Jackson, a filmmaker, theater director and artist whose work have been celebrated on the Gay and Lesbian Film circuit. Jackson's film, *Softly*, a highly stylized short film that traces desire, sensuality and romance is the centerpiece of his exhibition. In this film, Bratz dolls have been employed as actors in a romantic narrative between two men. By staging them in miniature, exquisitely handcrafted sets, the line between dollhouse and reality becomes blurred—creating a world as fragile and ephemeral as the romance story that takes place within the frame. On exhibit are two of the sets, presented as sculptures, and still photographs from the film. Making reference to Todd Haynes' landmark 1987 film *Superstar: The Karen Carpenter Story*, and Douglas Sirk films of the 1950s, *Softly* embraces sentimentality and humor, queer iconography and fetish.

Bryan Jackson, born in 1967 in Emporia, Kansas, holds an MFA from UCLA. His films have been screened in festivals internationally, including CineKink, New York City (*Haircut*, winner, Best Experimental Short Film, 2004); NewFest, the New York Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Film Festival (2007, 2005, 2004); and the gay and lesbian film festivals of Lisbon, Jakarta, New Zealand, London, Sydney, Amsterdam, Berlin, Cologne, Frankfurt, Munich, Chicago, Seattle, Bremen, Fresno, Indianapolis, Austin, Barcelona, Honolulu, Los Angeles, Long Island, and Atlanta. Jackson lives and works in Los Angeles, and is on faculty at UC Irvine.

Alexander Gray Associates is a contemporary art gallery and advising firm based in New York. Our exhibition program focuses on mid-career visual artists who emerged in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s. Through consulting and collection advising, we provide expertise and educational experiences for our individual and corporate clients. Our ultimate goal is to provide a direct experience with Modern and contemporary art that encourages discourse around art's role in the advancement of culture. Gallery hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM