

Gabriel Dawe: Plexus #9

Phillip Low

September 9 through October 8, 2011

Opening Reception Friday September 9, 6:30 – 9pm

PEEL is pleased to introduce the work of Gabriel Dawe to Houston audiences. The Mexico City born artist and current Dallas resident received his MFA in Arts and Technology at the University of Texas at Dallas. After initially working as a graphic designer, Dawe began creating large scale installations inspired by the work of British sculptor Anish Kapoor. His Plexus Series, presented at PEEL, display shimmers of color crafted of polychrome thread which span across the room from floor to ceiling to create an almost dizzying effect. Reminiscent of the intensity and color of the artist's native Mexico, these installations are inspired by traditional embroidery on clothing. The viewers are invited to experience and contemplate this rich environment.

The practice of embroidering is traditionally associated with women, yet by exploring textiles and embroidery as a male artist, Mr. Dawe subverts the notion of masculinity characteristic of his culture. Through his work, the artist implies that traditional male and female roles may be learned rather than innate and therefore are antiquated. The installation focuses on thread, textiles and clothing, but its large scale introduces architecture as another form of shelter and protection. Dawe examines not only the supporting aspects of these forms of human shelter, but also their limiting and controlling nature.

Dawe's complex spatial structures give visual expression to the invisible forces which shape our existence; social norms, rules and expectations which determine who we are. On a larger scale, these installations refer to evolutionary theory, microscopic imagery and patterns of nature drawing our attention to the 'invisible order amidst the chaos of life'. Walking through the spatial structures, the viewer will become aware of the layers of meaning these structures offer.

In conjunction with Gabriel Dawe's installation, PEEL will exhibit sculptural work by New York artist and designer Phillip Low. Originally from Vancouver, British Columbia, Low received his BA at St Martins School of Art in London, Great Britain. Currently he lives in New York where he works in the field of product design. Low's small sculptures were born of cross referencing fine art and plastics as a medium. They recall prisms with triangular based bodies that reflect or disperse rays of light. The emphasis in Low's work is on light effects, geometry and color. These pieces are created of a scale that invites the viewer to manipulate them.

For further information contact:

Steven Hempel

PEEL

4411 Montrose Blvd

Houston, TX 77006

713.520.8122

www.peelgallery.org ; info@peelgallery.org