

Detritus March 7-28 2009

Curated By Lani Asher

Opening Reception: March 7 6pm –9pm

Gallery Hours: Monday-Thursday 10 am –2pm

Friday and Saturday 3-6 pm or by appointment

Soap Gallery

3180 Mission Street, San Francisco

tel: 415-920-9199

Detritus...a rubbing away...Fragments of rock,etc produced by disintegration or wearing away; debris

-Websters New World Dictionary

"Detritus" is a group show at the Soap Gallery March 7-28th 2009 and features artists Fritz Van Orden, Lani Asher, Karin Wikstrom, Adele Crawford, Dean Decent, Ian Scheller, and Anne M Bray. The term detritus has many usages: the detritus of a life (a messy desk or personal notebooks, dishes and clothing), the detritus of western consumer culture (trash), or the detritus of historical places (archeological ruins). The use of detritus in modern art has changed our accepted notions of aesthetics.

Detritus can evoke nostalgia or the underlying sense of loss, erasure, and displacement of modern life. Fritz Van Orden lives in Brooklyn and draws what he sees in his daily life—trees and fields in Prospect Park, and commuters on the New York subway. Adele Crawford investigates the history of the discarded photos she collects. She embroiders words on top of them, creating modern day samplers. She also makes old –fashioned handheld games. Pottery shards found in archeological ruins influence Dean Decent’s sculptures. Anne M Bray paints and draws the mess on her desk and photographs and paints large piles of gravel visible off the LA freeways. Karin Wikstrom builds up layers with thin coats of paint over clay board and then installs the panels in random configurations. Characters from Ian Scheller’s cartoons populate his performances and video work where he seeks the ” wonderful and exquisite meanings for his own presence on earth and his relationship to the world around him.” Lani Asher’s collages combine paintings and drawings generated by her studio activity with her black and white photography. Detritus is the debris that builds upon itself like sandstone, which will inevitably break down, before the process begins again.

