

RISKY BUSINESS

August 14 – 18, 2006
Opening: Monday, August 14th

**Derek Ayres · Derek Cracco · Luigi Cicala · Michelle Handelman
Claudia Hart · Dana Dale Lee · Margaret Roleke · Rafael Francesco Salas
Suicide Artist · Sharon Thomas · Anahita Vossoughi · Aaron Zimmerman**

P·P·O·W is pleased to present *Risky Business*. Curated by the gallery's archivist Dana Dale Lee and staged while most of New York's culturati are on vacation, *Risky Business* is an art world version of the '80s Tom Cruise film of the same name. Brief descriptions of the casually assorted contributors to this 'while-the-parents-are-out-of-town' art party follow.

Derek Ayres illuminates the beautiful in the potentially destructive by sculpting a life-sized wooden sniper rifle. In a similar, yet converse vein, **Anahita Vossoughi** reconfigures appropriated images of Guantanamo Bay POW's into beautiful painted images of ornamental objects. **Margaret Roleke's** enormous collage of toy army-men (based on kill numbers from the war in Iraq) results in an arabesque, yet overwhelming abstract image. **Suicide Artist's** red ink-stained work uses a detonative technique to investigate horror and fear.

Exposing what is universal in our vulnerability, **Rafael Francisco Salas** depicts a lone figure, his mother, in a sublime, psychological portrait. Utilizing religious and pop-culture imagery, **Derek Cracco** creates slick, resinous collages that question the differences between icons and idols, and their impact. **Luigi Cicala** paints action figure toys that articulate a Max Beckmann-esque humanism evoking tension and wit.

Sharon Thomas site-specific installations and drawings depict frightening characters in imaginary space to create tension and beauty. **Claudia Hart's** video melds technology with sensuality with an animation portraying a virtual woman who gently moves in her sleep yet cycles through sequences of movements like clockwork.

Using photo collage and an exacting illustrative process, **Aaron Zimmerman** crafts imagery whose perversity is matched by its beauty and political awareness.

Michelle Handelman's video and photographs of masked figures lead us on a metaphorical journey whose path is illuminated by fear and amusement. And lastly, artist/curator **Dana Dale Lee's** exhibits a violent, humorous and painterly exploration of the known and unknown.

Risky Business will run from August 14th - 18th, 2006. For more information contact Dana at 212 647-1044, or dana@ppowgallery.com