

DANNY SINGER: HAMLET

at GALLERY JONES

October 8 - 31, 2009, opening reception: Thursday, October 8, 6 - 9pm



Wiseton, Summer (detail), 33" x 108", archival lightjet print, edition of 5

This exhibition is Danny Singer's first with Gallery Jones and the first display of his work in a private gallery in Vancouver in the last 5 years. In that time, his monumental composite photographs have hung in the Vancouver Art Gallery, the National Gallery of Canada, the Mendel Art Gallery in Saskatoon, and in art fairs internationally, including ARCO (Madrid) and Art Fair International (Cologne).

Singer has spent the last 8 years intermittently photographing the small towns on the prairies and plains of North America, and then returning to the studio to recreate the sense of place in a two dimensional format as wide as 12 feet in some cases. The resulting photographs do not stand only as documents of a space (in composing them some 100 or more individual photographs are joined together), but they are also impressions of human life within a landscape.

When Singer visits a town for the first time with the thought of making an image of its main street, he is looking for specific elements. Although there are many ghost towns neighbouring those that he photographs, the heavy-handed sense of nostalgia that accompanies abandoned human habitation is not what interests Singer. He is looking for signs of life and commerce and some indication of why these collections of buildings are standing together under a massive sky. This will often take the shape of a post office or café, or a church – in one instance a shiny, red snow-blower. Many of his pieces also include a war memorial, one element among many, but important back-story to the current episode of life unfolding. In fact, the very nature of the way the towns are represented, unfolded like a diorama, lends itself to a temporal experience: while you are taking in one section of the image, you could believe that a door may have swung open and closed in another.

The exhibition will run from October 8 – 31, 2009. For more information or images, please contact the gallery.

Regards,

Shane O'Brien