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DAN COLEN
SECRETS AND CYMBALS, SMOKE AND SCISSORS
(MY FRIEND DASH'S WALL IN THE FUTURE)
MAY 11 – JUNE 3, 2006
75 GRAND STREET

Deitch Projects is pleased to present a solo exhibition by Dan Colen, consisting of one phenomenal work, *Secrets and Cymbals, Smoke and Scissors (My Friend Dash's Wall in the Future)* (2004-2006).

This painted sculpture represents a recreation of the artist Dash Snow's wall from his former Avenue C apartment. Everything depicted in this work, including the "wood paneled" back, is illusionistically painted to resemble this legendary wall. Every crumple of every sullied *New York Post* front page, every art show announcement, photograph, baseball card and tag is recreated by Colen in paint.

After photographing Dash's unique piece of interior decoration, an artwork in its own right, Colen recreated with maniacal exactitude both the appearance and the arrangement of Dash's living room wall. Over the years in his high-traffic, clubhouse of an apartment, Dash accumulated on his wall the record of a group that has now come to the fore of the Lower East Side art scene. Staple-gunned to his wall are stickers, photographs, news clippings, sketches for (eventually achieved) tattoos, pervy doodles, spray paint, swastikas, porn, and assorted cutlery all photo-realistically executed in oil paint. Heavy on sex, violence, and Sadaam Hussein, Dash's wall is anthropologically interesting in its own right to see what sort of cultural debris catches his eye and is worthy of apotheosis here.

At first this sculpture baffles as it almost *too* well recreates its original, but once the *trompe l'oeil* is deciphered, the viewer comes in contact with a very sophisticated and nuanced piece of contemporary sculpture. Simultaneously anthropological and minimal in origin, Colen's piece begins as a ponderous monument to the accumulated energy of this slice of the New York experience, but then moves into the realm of conceptual sculpture, where pondering the selection of such an object for such meticulous recreation becomes more fruitful. Like his boulders currently on view at the Whitney Museum, Dan has made a sculpture both deceiving in its construction and ambiguous in its intent, but whose blurring of high and low, public and private, is deeply compelling.

Dan Colen's standout solo show, *Seven Days Always Seemed Like A Bit Of An Exaggeration*, in the fall of 2003 at Rivington Arms, wowed a young art crowd who might have forgotten what exceptional paint handling looked like. He is included in the current Whitney Biennial, the forthcoming *USA Today* exhibition at the Royal Academy in London, the *Infinite Painting* show currently at the Villa Manin Centre for Contemporary Art in Italy, and has a forthcoming show at Peres Projects, Berlin. *Secrets and Cymbals, Smoke and Scissors (My Friend Dash's Wall in the Future)* is in the collection of Dean Valentine and Amy Adelson, and is presented courtesy of Peres Projects.

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