

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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February 5 – March 5, 2011

Opening Reception Saturday, February 5, 7–10pm

Curt LeMieux

Blot

Monte Vista is pleased to present *Blot*, a series of paintings and sculptures by **Curt LeMieux**.

In the exhibition *Blot*, Curt LeMieux evokes the tragedy of oil spills, repetitive and catastrophic insults to life that have become so commonplace as to be virtually synonymous with the Earth's demise. LeMieux's works on fabric suggest the ready association we make between black blots and blobs and petroleum spills, branded on our consciousness as symbols of our dalliance with apocalypse. The artist's use of industrial household materials, evidence of both the private sphere and the exploitative practices that provide for it, induces a turn from comfort to revulsion as degradation intrudes into the domestic ideal.

In one of the works, a black stain seems to spread spontaneously within a decorative linen dinner napkin, imitative of the oil spill's necrotic process. The form is hacked apart; fragments of fiber stick out. There seems to be an attempt to establish or classify the location of animals within this environment: two small strips of canvas adhere directly to the surface; upon one of the strips is written the word "Tern" and upon the other, the word "Tuna." The use of signifying language denotes both containment and an extinction hit list whose meanings shift over the course of the series.

Curt LeMieux is a contemporary visual artist whose work has been shown nationally and internationally and appears in numerous private collections. Exhibition venues and events include: The Museum of Contemporary Art in Minsk, Belarus; The Sixth Festival of International Images in Manizales, Colombia; Luna International in Berlin, Germany; The Berkeley Video and Film Festival in Berkeley, CA; The Santa Monica Museum of Art in Santa Monica, CA; The Hammer Museum in Los Angeles, CA; Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions in Los Angeles, CA; and Track 16 Gallery in Santa Monica, CA. LeMieux received an M.F.A. degree in Drawing and Installation in 2001 from the Claremont Graduate University in Claremont, CA.

Monte Vista

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open Saturday and Sunday, noon to 5 pm