Tom Lauerman
Captured Dissipations

Paul V. Galvin Library

April 13 - September 16, 2006

Artist reception:
Thursday, April 13, 4:30 - 7:30 pm

Exhibition hours:
Monday - Thursday: 12 noon - 6 pm
Friday: 12 noon - 5 pm
Saturday: 8:30 am - 5 pm
Sunday: 12 - 6 pm

art.iit.edu

Clouds. Formations that have no mass; seemingly as light as the air they float on. How can they be captured in a form that is not as fleeting? Tom Lauerman searches for lightness and buoyancy in ceramic material that is formed to the edge of collapse and then arrested into a disintegrating cloud.

Curator:
Robert J. Krawczyk, Assistant Professor, College of Architecture

Exhibition coordinator:
Mindy Ann Sherman, College of Science and Letters

Gallery assistant:
Joseph Huang, College of Architecture

Sponsored by:
IIT Office of the President, Lew Collins, President
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IIT College of Architecture, Donna Robertson, Dean

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Tom Laverman
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Paul V. Galvin Library
Illinois Institute of Technology
151 E. 33rd Street, Chicago, IL 60616

April 13 - September 16, 2006

Art reception:
Thursday, April 13, 4:30 - 7:30 pm

Exhibition hours:
Monday - Thursday: 12 - 6 pm
Friday: 12 - 9 pm
Saturday: 10:00 am - 5 pm
Sunday: 12 - 6 pm

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Cumulus Foesus, Tom Laverman, 2005
IIT Art Board

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Gallery Staff

Robert J. Krawczyk
Gallery Director
Assistant Professor, College of Architecture

Mindy Ann Sherman
Exhibition Coordinator
College of Science and Letters

Paul V. Galvin Library

exhibition hours:
Monday - Thursday: 12 - 6 pm
Friday: 12 - 5 pm
Saturday: 8:30 am - 5 pm
Sunday: 2 - 6 pm

Kemper Room Art Gallery, Paul V. Galvin Library, 35 West 33rd Street, Chicago, IL 60616 312-567-5293, art@iit.edu

for additional information, complete hours, and related events:
art.iit.edu

Tom Lauerman
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Clouds. Formations that have no mass; seemingly as light as the air they float on. How can they be captured in a form that is not as fleeting? Tom Lauerman searches for lightness and buoyancy in ceramic material that is formed to the edge of collapse and then arrested into a disintegrating cloud.

This group of forms, all based on cloud formations, originated during a residency at the Kohler Arts/Industry Program in Kohler, WI. These objects are an attempt to create a fixed shape and volume that is derived from a subject that is amorphous and ephemeral. To determine the exact contours and dimensions of any cloud while watching it pass overhead is challenging. Despite being built in a large American factory, he found the process of making these forms has a much in common with the tradition of plein air painting, which refers to landscape painting on-site in the open air.

Researching the history of the depiction of clouds in art history provided a surprisingly vast array of styles, shapes, and symbols that in various cultures have been used to signify weather events of all kinds. In European painting, depictions of clouds range from idyllic pastoral clouds painted by Constable to the churning tornadic massing of cloud, sky, water, and flame in the apocalyptic late paintings of JMW Turner. In several depictions in Chinese art, clouds and fog are used as a sort of framing device marking the passage of time between important events or the unseen spaces between distant cities. The inherently ambiguous nature of clouds gives them the ability to express and embody a wide range of human emotions.

Further research into the science of atmosphericics revealed the complexity, significance, and variation of cloud formations. Several of the perforated forms in this exhibition derive from the scientific name *Cumulus Fractus*, meaning a dissipating or disintegrating cloud or formation. He is particularly interested in the idea of depicting something that is rapidly dispersing and barely in evidence. Lauerman writes: “These forms have provoked me to try and create a sculptural object that is capable of inhabiting as large a space as possible with the least amount of physical mass. This search for lightness and buoyancy in ceramic material will eventually lead to the collapse of the form during the process of making, a fitting endpoint in the depiction of an elusive subject.”

Lauerman has art degrees from the Cranbrook Academy of Art and Southern Methodist University. He has competed residencies at the Kohler Arts/Industry Program, the Chicago Children’s Museum, and the Pilchuck Glass School. He has received numerous awards and grants for his work and has exhibited since 2000 in the United States and internationally in Finland and Canada.

He currently serves as an instructor at the Lill Street Art Center, Gallery 37 for the Arts, and Vaughn School’s After School Matters program; and has previously taught at the College of DuPage and Northwestern University.

The Studio of Tom Lauerman can be reached at: www.telegraphart.com, tomlauerman@yahoo.com, or 312-925-2014.

On the cover: *Cumulus Fractus*, Tom Lauerman, 2005