



Press Release

Clay Wagstaff

May 31- June 30, 2007

Dynamic Symmetry

Sears-Peyton Gallery is pleased to announce our first solo exhibition of works by Utah based artist Clay Wagstaff. **DYNAMIC SYMMETRY** is a collection of recent oil paintings.

“Tropic, Utah is located at the gateway to Bryce Canyon, a national park that is known for its towering red rock formations. Tropic itself is made up of land that is a blend of plentitude and parchedness, as vast fields of ancient juniper trees give way to sprinkles of red, Mars-like dirt. The duality of the land, coupled with the mysteriously misleading town name, makes Tropic the perfect setting for the ominously energized landscape paintings by Clay Wagstaff, one of the town’s five hundred residents.

A conceptual underbelly creates a dynamic tension within Wagstaff’s landscapes. At the core of each painting is a skeleton of geometric lines that adheres to the principals of dynamic symmetry, an ideology that Leonardo da Vinci immortalized with his Golden Section, and one that Wagstaff perpetuates in his paintings of landscapes inhabited by plants, rock, and hills that all conform to these organic and mathematical proportions.

Wagstaff’s paintings are not only neither still nor moving; they are also neither near nor far. An ambiguous sense of scale is another feature that contributes to the otherworldliness of Wagstaff’s paintings. In **OCEAN NO. 7**, twin rock formations emerge symmetrically from the water. Stripped bare of details that would indicate scale, the viewer is presented with the task of determining the monumentality of the figures. As the possibilities of scale shift from small to large to gigantic, an additional layer of dynamic tension pulses from the painting.

-Kimberly Whinna

Gallery Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 10 -6, Saturday, 11- 6

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