

For Immediate Release

Willie Birch

The four large-scale grisaille works on paper in this exhibition, his fifth at the Luise Ross Gallery since 1994, were completed during his recent fellowship at the CUE Foundation in New York. Displaced from his studio in the Seventh Ward in New Orleans, Birch has been afforded the opportunity to look upon the Big Easy, his beloved, life-long muse, from a brisk Big Apple vantage, and the four large-scale grisaille works on paper evoke the soul and élan of the residents of New Orleans as vigorously as they interrogate notions of memory, identity, and cultural continuity. These paintings compel us to seize the present, to face reality and reject the obfuscation of “truth”, to see things in *grayscale* – metaphor of flexibility, the locus of reconciliation. The work suggests that were we to embrace the present, and each other, all as saints we might go marching.

The artist is a 2006 grant recipient of the Joan Mitchell Foundation.

Title: Willie Birch

Dates: 18 February – 25 March 2006

Opening: Saturday, 18 February, 5 – 7 pm

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