

For Immediate Release

Thomas Lyon Mills

73 Prayers in the Underground

Within the ancient passageways of the Roman catacombs and the primeval forests and swamps of the Adirondacks, Thomas Lyon Mills draws on his personal contemplation of sacred spaces to paint the history around him. Searching for remnants of the past -- stone structures of the Colosseum or abandoned dilapidated sheds deep in the woods -- he captures their hushed mystery through observation. The artist closely examines stone-hewed labyrinths, glistening with moisture and graffiti, and brings to life the mossy, canopied swamps, isolated from culture and present time. These paintings incorporate a range of different media, including watercolor, ink, collage, woodblock prints and *frottage* on paper, to create a sometimes transparent, sometimes detailed space that is at once disorienting and awesome. And since Mills believes the work is never finished, he will piece these sheets of paper together as the subject dictates. The end result is a moving panorama that draws us into the artist's world of myth and memory.

Thomas Lyon Mills is a professor of drawing at Rhode Island School of Design. This will be his first one-person exhibition in New York. In addition to the paintings, sketchbooks and found objects from which the artist draws inspiration will be featured.

Title: **Thomas Lyon Mills**
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Dates: **10 June – 23 July 2004**

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