

SIMON LIU GALLERY

presents

MAURICIO MORILLAS and ELLIE WINBERG

August 8 – 27, 2005

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For immediate release



The **Simon Liu Gallery** is pleased to announce an exhibition of new work by **Mauricio Morillas** and **Ellie Winberg**. The show, entitled, “**EXTREME PAPER**”, will be on view **August 8 – 27**. A reception for the artists will be held on **Thursday, August 11, from 6-8pm**. The Simon Liu Gallery is located at **645 Dean Street** between Carlton and Vanderbilt in the Prospect Heights section of **Brooklyn** and is open **Monday – Saturday from 10 am to 5pm**.

Mauricio Morillas and Ellie Winberg use paper pulp prepared in their studio to create works of art that challenge the traditional definitions of handmade paper. Stretching the boundaries of

papermaking to the extreme, their work explores the tactile and organic nature of handmade paper, color, and scale with pieces as large as 6’ x 8’ and range from Winberg’s powerful vibrant colors and metallic, to Morillas’ pure minimalism of white-on-white compositions. Both artists take the art of papermaking as more than a process; their aim is to go beyond paper as paper and create shapes, curves and textures in abstract ways. The unique topography of the form instinctively invites the viewer to walk within a breath’s space away because the works are both visually magnetic and alluring to the touch.

For Winberg, beating, mixing and pouring buckets of pulp into a deliberate design requires harnessing a flow of energy. It is a physical and strenuous process as well as mentally exacting. In so transforming the pulp, she creates art that gives aesthetic pleasure, intrigues the visual senses and brings fresh associations to the mind. Her work delves into deeply saturated colors, boldly awakening the viewer while simultaneously instilling a sense of minimalism. Winberg explains, “I look to simplify, clarify and cleanse each composition and design. If one pares away the nonessential, one can contemplate the fullness of the art object. I want my work to provoke a new response, a new thought to the timeless question: *what is it?*”

In contrast to Winberg’s strong colors and energy, Morillas creates a cool minimalism. While working solely in shades of white, Morillas incorporates wood, glass and paint with his handmade paper to produce three-dimensional textures which draw the viewer’s eye to see something different at all levels. Morillas states, “The shape and textures in my artwork are inspired by all that surrounds me; from shadows projecting onto different objects, to the textures of trees and geometric forms. I find that working with paper is the best way for me to show my vision and express my feelings in my artwork.”

Ellie Winberg was born in Michigan and lived in both Europe and California before moving to New York. She maintains a studio in the Carroll Gardens section of Brooklyn.

Mauricio Morillas was born in Mexico. “The opportunity to be in New York and experience the multicultural facets of this wonderful city has allowed me to explore a bigger world of art than I had known before. The more I see, the more the ideas come to me.”

For more information on the show, please visit www.elliwinberg.com or call 718-832-0496.