

JAMES FUENTES LLC
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BRIAN DEGRAW
BEHEAD THE GENRE

January 27th – February 28th, 2007
Opening Reception January 26th 6 – 8 PM

HOURS Wed. – Sat. 12 PM – 6 PM and by appointment



Untitled (witchboard painting palette)
Acrylic on wood, 17 x 11 inches, 2007

James Fuentes LLC is proud to announce its inaugural show – Brian DeGraw's solo exhibition *Behead the Genre*, an ambitious examination of the instinct to pigeonhole and obsessively describe, an affront to the project of labeling at large. The installation will consist of sculpture, drawing and painting featuring a bevy of references that defy time and the impulse to separate.

DeGraw's art is intimately linked to music. A member of New York's *Gang Gang Dance*, and a long-time DJ and composer, DeGraw is consumed by the power music has to move an audience—its particular syntax, its ability to lift, to drop, to vary, and, finally, to destabilize us.

Could a parallel destabilization in art exist only in principle—little more than a Potemkin gesture in a world in which we endlessly congregate with those of our tribe? If so, DeGraw's exhibition, elemental in bits (it is no coincidence that the pyramid is a recurring motif), is an ode and an allusion to music's extraordinary ability to flatten the neat barriers that define that very tribalism. His message is not a sort of trite we are the world-ism, but rather, it is largely about how we erect these barriers in the first place.

In the end DeGraw bends genre and thereby addresses the core of what it means for him to make art at large.

Brian DeGraw has participated in group shows at Alleged Galleries, American Fine Arts Co., Rivington Arms, Annet Gelink, agnes b./Galerie du Jour, Participant Inc., Roma, Roma, Roma, Herald Street and Gavin Brown's enterprise at Passerby. His work is in the collection of The Museum of Modern Art as well as important private collections. He also tours internationally with two successful band projects: Angelblood (with Rita Ackermann) and Gang Gang Dance.

James Fuentes LLC is a contemporary art gallery based in Chinatown, New York. The program is committed to solo contemporary art exhibitions. Forthcoming shows are; Agathe Snow and William Stone.