



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Alejandro Cardenas

NARCOMEDUSA

January 30th – February 28th 2010
Reception: Friday, January 29th, 6 – 8 pm

James Fuentes LLC is pleased to announce Alejandro Cardenas' forthcoming exhibition, *Narcomedusa*.

A Narcomedusa is a type of jellyfish found in the darkest depths of the Pacific Ocean. Two thousand feet below sea level, it lives its entire life in total darkness, floating elegantly in pressures that could crush a human skull. It feeds passively, as small animals stumble into its tentacles and are slowly digested in its translucent stomach. On the rare occasions that this creature has been seen with human eyes it has been with spotlights and through the acrylic dome of a submarine; the Narcomedusa's form silhouetted in stark contrast to the absolute blackness of the deep sea.

Cardenas begins these works with random watercolor compositions that involve no brushwork. Once the paint has settled, Cardenas looks for the image within the randomness, defining elements and unifying the form with black gouache and ink. The paintings end up resembling sea creatures caught in an explorer's spotlights. The series concerns human interaction with nature, contrasting the angularity of the man-made with the varied hues and forms of the natural. The exhibition title describes this motif: *Narco* (Latin: sleep) and *Medusa* (the mythological character that caused any onlooker to turn to stone) both imply transitive states.

Alejandro Cardenas has presented solo exhibitions at LISTE The Young Art Fair in Basel (2009), James Fuentes LLC (2008), and Bas-Fisher Invitational in Miami (2005). He was a founding member of the Lansing-Dreiden art collective. His work has been featured in group exhibitions at the UCLA Hammer Museum, Rivington Arms, Daniel Reich Gallery, and LFL Gallery. His work is included in the Progressive Art Collection.

For additional information please contact Becky or James at 212.577.1201 or info@jamesfuentes.com.
Gallery hours: Wednesday – Sunday, 12pm - 6pm

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