

Ben Jackel 15 May — 3 July 2009

Compliance Solutions

Reception for the artist:
 Friday, 15 May, 7– 9 p.m.
 Valet parking.



Syntagma, 2008-2009 (detail view)
 porcelain, mahogany, bismuth alloy
 256 figures each 6" high
 installation dimensions variable



Syntagma, 2008-2009 (detail view)

L.A. Louver is pleased to present the first solo exhibition of Los Angeles-based artist Ben Jackel.

Ben Jackel's sculptures blend the artist's interest in history, particularly the history of war, and an attraction to the beauty of man-made objects, with his sophisticated handling of clay and wood. The forms that Jackel creates range from simple devices, to highly technical and refined machines; from objects that are life-size, to those many times smaller or larger than their real-life equivalent.

The centerpiece of the exhibition is an installation of 256 Greek warriors created from clay, titled *Syntagma*, 2008-2009. The 6 inch-high figures – each a unique combination of stance, helmet, breastplate and shield – hold a metal-tipped mahogany spear, and are presented in battle formation.

In the series *Miles to Go Until We Sleep*, 2008-2009, seven naval destroyers plow through a gallery wall and are perceived by the visitor in aerial view. Each vessel re-imagines an original warship from the Battle of Leyte Gulf, the largest naval battle of WWII. In lyrical counterbalance to the ships, with *In the Hearts of Men*, 2008-2009, Jackel interprets

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the shrouded, winged figure created by Daniel Chester French (1850-1931) in 1922, to commemorate the Massachusetts dead of WWI (collection of the Huntington Art Collection, San Marino, California).

Jackel is also interested in that ancient tool of war, as well as work, the axe. Here he creates both a life-size version of a fire axe in clay, as well as an ancient axe head in massive scale: installed on its side and resting against the wall, this 10-feet-high form titled *Down to the Bone*, 2008-2009, is carved from redwood and coated with graphite. A fire extinguisher, a fire hose, and a box of sprinkler heads comprise a group of functional objects that are generally taken for granted, until crisis commands attention to their necessity. These Jackel renders functionless, with each meticulously executed sculpture presented in an ebony box that absorbs light and creates stillness around the object; our attention is driven to the quiet elegance of their forms.

Born and raised in Denver, Jackel received his BFA at the University of Colorado, Boulder before moving to Los Angeles to pursue a MFA at the University of California, Los Angeles. At UCLA, Jackel studied with department head Adrian Saxe, who proved to be a critical influence in the development of Jackel's work in clay, and artist Charles Ray, with whom Jackel has continued to work following his graduation in 2005.



Down to the Bone, 2008-2009
redwood; graphite
120 x 90 x 16 in. (304.8 x 228.6 x 40.6 cm)



Sprinkler heads, 2008-2009
stoneware; ebony
8 x 14 x 4 in. (20.3 x 35.6 x 10.2 cm)

L.A. Louver was proud to include three sculptures by Jackel in Rogue Wave 2007 exhibition -- the gallery began its representation of Jackel immediately thereafter.

L.A. Louver is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am to 6 pm
Validated parking is available in the garage directly opposite the gallery.

For further information and visuals please contact:
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