

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Joel Shapiro

31 March - 6 May, 2006
Opening reception:
Friday, 31 March, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.



Untitled, 2004-2005, wood and casein, 58 1/2 x 109 x 104 1/2 in., (148.6 x 276.9 x 265.4 cm)

L.A. Louver is pleased to present an exhibition of recent sculptures and works on paper by Joel Shapiro.

Three sculptures, which together address the forms and materials that have engaged Shapiro over the past four years, lie at the heart of the exhibition.

Untitled, 2005, comports in scale and distilled form to the human body. Through the juxtaposition of five bronze geometric volumes, an exuberance and lightness of the body in motion is conveyed, which belies the sculpture’s materiality.

In *Untitled, 2002-2004*, the allusion to human form has all but dissolved, and gives way to the abstract depiction of energy. Rectangles of white bronze are arranged into a complex density towards its base, while two elegant beams soar upwards. This enigmatic construction, previously rendered by the artist in wood (shown at L.A. Louver in the artist’s solo exhibition January/February 2004), is installed in the gallery’s open-air skyroom. The nuances of the ethereal patina of white bronze shift with the changing light of its placement; the upward trajectories literary soar towards the sky.



Untitled, 2002-2004, white bronze, 160 x 80 x 34.02 in., (406.4 x 203.2 x 86.4 cm), Edition 1 of 3 (Not view in Skyroom)

The third sculpture, *Untitled, 2004-2005*, addresses Shapiro’s recent embrace of color in his work. Created from wood, several of the oblong forms are painted with rich blue casein (a fast-drying water-based paint that dries to a matte finish). This sculpture seems to possess a force that explodes from within and is juxtaposed by the dynamism of two abstract bodies (conveyed through color) in dialectic engagement.

Five works on paper that are comprised of one or more of pastel, charcoal and chalk, complement the sculptures. These works, which present Shapiro’s signature oblong forms in two dimension, play homage to their three dimensional counterparts. With their varying colors, shifting edges and smudges of pigment, the forms seem to dance across the sheets of paper.

continued

The Artist

Joel Shapiro emerged on the international art scene during the late 1960s. He was given a solo show at MOCA, Chicago in 1976, and an early survey at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York in 1982. His work was included at the Venice Biennial in 1976 and Documenta, Kassel, Germany in 1977. Traveling museum shows organized by the Whitechapel Gallery, London; the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; and the Louisiana Museum, Denmark followed.

Shapiro's work is included in private and public collections worldwide, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art (which also mounted the solo exhibition *Joel Shapiro on the Roof*, in 2001), and the Museum of Modern Art in New York; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, and National Gallery, Washington, D.C.; Tate Gallery, London; Hykytatiteen Museo, Helsinki, Finland; Israel Museum and Tel Aviv Museum of Art in Israel; Ho-Am Art Museum, Korea, and the National Gallery of Art, Canberra, Australia.



Untitled, 2004, pastel on paper, 23 5/8 x 18 1/4 in., (60 x 46.4 cm)

Invited by Paris' Musée d'Orsay in 2005 to make a work in response to their collection, Shapiro took inspiration from Jean-Baptiste Carpeaux's *La Danse*, 1866-1869, and created the exuberant multi-colored sculpture *Twenty Elements*, which was exhibited in the museum to much acclaim.

Concurrent to Joel Shapiro's exhibition of sculpture and works on paper, LA Louver will present a group show of paintings and works on paper by artists Georg Baselitz, Tony Berlant, Domenico Bianchi, Rainer Fetting, Katharina Sieverding and Tom Wudl among others.



For further information and visuals, please contact:
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