

Ronald Feldman Fine Arts

For immediate release: February 25, 1998

CARL FUDGE

MARCH 21 - APRIL 25, 1998

Carl Fudge will exhibit new paintings at the Feldman Gallery. The paintings appear as elaborate abstractions, unified fields of patterning with the existence of an almost imperceptible grid-like system as an organizing device. They vary in appearance from a delicate filigree of lines to a dense labyrinth playing with negative-positive space. Although abstract, the paintings are derived from the artist's reconstruction of seventeenth and eighteenth century Japanese erotic prints, the Ukiyo-e Shunga. The work suggests information overload in a technological age, the fact that excessive information results in the breakdown of meaning.

As a complement to the paintings, the artist will also exhibit color photographs that, although unaltered, reflect the artist's idiom in which abstraction, pattern, and transformation are extracted from the figurative.

Through an elaborate series of steps, using only reproduction processes, the artist subverts traditional distinctions between print-making and painting. He silkscreens layered and mapped-out configurations derived from historical sources, which have been photographed, Xeroxed, cut and collaged, and altered through the computer. The artist's hand does not appear. Although the narrative information becomes indecipherable, an essence of the original line remains.

Michael Brennan writes that Fudge takes "giant steps past the trappings of conventional abstract painting." Joseph Nechvatal, referring to previous work derived from Durer's *Resurrection*, acknowledges the power of Fudge's abstraction which transcends the limitations of the literal:

This is what makes him one of the greatest artists of his young generation. He unmasks the systematic fraud of reason....those stratifications of conditioned reflexive vision that produce programmed responses. His work constitutes a refusal of narration and an acceptance of grief, setting into motion non- predetermined imaginative processes....Instead of his lines marking limits, they become limitless.

Originally from London, Carl Fudge has lived in New York for several years where he has exhibited regularly in solo and group shows. He was included in two group shows at the Feldman Gallery, *Faux*, 1994 and *Maux Faux*, 1995. This is his first one person show at the gallery.

There will be a reception for the artist on Saturday, March 21 from 6 to 8. Gallery hours are Tuesday - Saturday, 10 to 6. Monday by appointment. For more information, contact Rita MacDonald.