

Ronald Feldman Fine Arts

31 Mercer Street, New York, New York 10013
212 226-3232 fax 212 941-1536 www.feldmangallery.com

For Immediate Release: November 11, 2004

CONRAD ATKINSON: COLLABORATIONS

TODD SILER: A.R.T. Strings

DECEMBER 2 – 24

The Feldman Gallery will exhibit new work by Conrad Atkinson and Todd Siler in two separate installations. Both artists have been represented by the gallery for more than twenty years. Atkinson, an activist British artist who has influenced the direction of contemporary art, has engaged in controversial issues including industrial disease, Northern Ireland, and the proliferation of landmines. Siler, the first visual artist to receive a Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Studies in Psychology and Art from M.I.T., provides an alternative vision of time, space, matter, and energy beyond the fourth dimension that takes into account the edgy, violent side of our creative nature.

Conrad Atkinson

The past and the present coalesce in *Collaborations*, an exhibition comprised of paintings, drawings, and everyday objects that interact with curatorial and museum practices and codes, weaving art history, the tradition of poetry, and contemporary sensibilities and events. An embroidered suit, "theorized" to have been worn by Wordsworth whilst writing the poem *Daffodils*, and an accompanying curatorial text reveal microscopic evidence of now extinct species and early Industrial Revolution pollution. Using the metaphor of the West Nile virus as an early Jackson Pollock painting, Atkinson comments on the penetration of the developed world by the underdeveloped world and the awful symmetry of their mutual destruction. Referring to contemporary news events, Atkinson has created a work based on the theme and size of Picasso's *Guernica* (*Fallujuernica*?) that uses wounds depicted on paintings in The Metropolitan Museum and the Courtauld Institute Gallery in London. Related to his signature newspaper works, Atkinson "uncovers" Van Gogh's partially severed ear, multiplies it like Warhol's soup cans, and places it beside wounds rendered on a vase by Euphonious. Atkinson investigates our damaged world, questioning who controls the meaning of politics, history, and aesthetics.

Atkinson's 1972 exhibition *Strike* was the subject of a recent tribute by one hundred British artists. In New York, his early work was a recent subject of debates at White Box with Tim Rollins, Alfredo Jaar, and others. A Distinguished Visiting Professor to the Courtauld Institute of Art in London in 2002, Atkinson was the first artist to exhibit in its collection. Other recent solo exhibitions in England were mounted by the Wolverhampton Art Gallery and the British Center for Romanticism's 3^oW Gallery (Grasmere). Public collections include: the Tate Gallery, the British Museum, The Museum of Modern

Art, the Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts, the Victoria & Albert Museum, the Berkeley Art Museum, and the Australian National Gallery. He is Professor Emeritus of Art at the University of California at Davis and the official artist of the U.S. campaign to ban landmines (Vietnam Veterans Trust).

Todd Siler

Siler's multi-media installation, *A.R.T. Strings (All Representations of Thoughts)* consists of paintings on synthetic canvas ("Metaphorms") and freestanding steel sculptures ("Subliminal Stories") that depict a world of information we experience daily that is radically shaping the future of life as we know it.

In describing the digitally compressed and distorted photographs in his sculptures, Siler writes:

"We compress and expand *everything*, as naturally as gravity distorts time and shapes space. These compressed expansions and expanded compressions affect *everything under the sun*: from our sense of truth to our experiences of beauty; from blissful joys to beastly horrors. Today we find ourselves staring at the *edges* of things, wondering about the subliminal stories our minds create to cope with our eternally turbulent universe, and potentially terrifying future. Are we, as physicists and string theorists, merely anonymous creations of *invisible strings of matter* too subtle to see? Does each nameless string contain a world of information that will forever elude the touch of human understanding? Does every string embody **All Representations of Thoughts**? Do *A.R.T. Strings* link everything from tranquility to terror? Perhaps life is only *one pattern* nature represents in infinite ways with all strings attached."

Todd Siler founded Psi-Phi Communications, LLC in 1993, a Denver-based company that creates and develops innovative, multi-purpose learning tools for education and business, such as the Think Like a Genius® Program for Lifelong Learning. He is the author of *Think like a Genius* (Bantam Books), *Breaking the Mind Barrier* (Simon and Schuster), as well as scientific concept articles including "Fractal Reactor: A New Geometry for Plasma Fusion" published in the *Proceedings of the Third Symposium on Current Trends in International Fusion* (NRC Research Press, Ottawa, Canada, 2003). Public collections of his work include the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Museum of Modern Art, the Pushkin Fine Arts Museum in Moscow, and The Israel Museum in Jerusalem. He was a Forum Fellow at the 1999 and 2001 World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, and is a member of the International Advisory Board of the World Knowledge Forum in Seoul, Korea. Siler holds a number of patents on a wide range of inventions, including textile printing technology and a computer-graphics input device.

There will be an opening reception, **Thursday**, December 2, 6 – 8. Gallery hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 10 – 6. Monday by appointment. For information contact Laura Muggeo (212) 226-3232 or laura@feldmangallery.com.