



FRIENDS OF THE HIGH LINE

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Friends of the High Line

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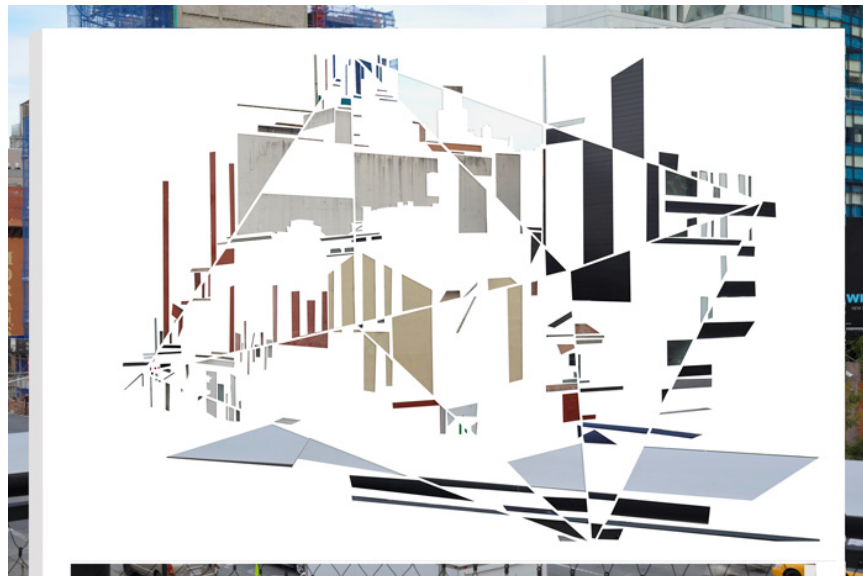
**HIGH LINE ART:
NEW WORK BY RICHARD GALPIN DEBUTS MAY 7**

On May 7, 2010, a new artwork by Richard Galpin, entitled *Viewing Station*, will debut on the High Line, New York City's elevated park built on a former freight rail trestle on Manhattan's west side. Using a specially designed and constructed viewing apparatus, this commissioned artwork will offer park visitors an altered perspective of a particular view from the High Line. One of the wonderful experiences the High Line has provided to visitors is a new vista of Manhattan. Similarly, Galpin's artwork will offer a novel reconsideration of our familiar surroundings.

Galpin is best known for creating altered photographs of cityscapes. His chosen method of manipulation is to cut and remove the top layer of the colored emulsion from his photographic prints, exposing the paper substrate. By eradicating part of the photograph, the imagery becomes greatly abstracted. Using clean lines and sharp angles, Galpin's technique produces works with an emphasis on geometric shapes, recalling early twentieth century movements such as Constructivism, Cubism, and Futurism.

Galpin's *Viewing Station* will function in a manner similar to his cut photographs, but will use the view from one point on the High Line as its raw material. Park visitors will look through a viewing apparatus, lined up with a metal screen from which geometric shapes have been cut. Precise alignment of these two devices with the buildings behind them will transform what is seen. By blocking some details of the nearby buildings and revealing others, the artwork will make them appear as optically flattened elements in an abstract composition.

Viewing Station will be located on the east side of the High Line, between W. 17th and 18th Streets.



Artist's digital rendering of the viewing screen installed on site

Galpin's work will debut to the public on Friday May 7, with a reception at 6:30 PM. The artist will give a talk on this piece and his work at 7:30 PM in the Chelsea Market Passage on the High Line. These events are free of charge, and seating for the talk is on a first-come, first-served basis.

This High Line Art Commission is presented by Friends of the High Line and the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation. High Line Art Commissions are made possible by Donald R. Mullen, Jr. Additional support for *Viewing Station* has been provided by Hales Gallery, London.

About the Artist

Since graduating from Goldsmiths College with an MA in 2001, Richard Galpin has had solo exhibitions at Franklin Art Works, Minneapolis; Brancolini Grimaldi Arte Contemporanea, Rome; Galeria Leme, Sao Paulo; Roebing Hall, New York; and Hales Gallery, London. Group exhibitions include *Under Erasure* at Temple Bar Gallery, Dublin; *When it's a Photograph* at The Bolsky Gallery, Los Angeles; *Prints and Drawings: Recent Acquisitions* at the British Museum, London; *The Photograph in Question*, Von Lintel Gallery, New York; *Attack: Attraction*, Marcel Sitcoske Gallery, San Francisco; and *Looking With/Out* at the Courtauld Institute of Art, London. His work is included in several public collections including the British Government Art Collection, the British Museum, and the Victoria and Albert Museum. He lives and works in London, and is represented by Hales Gallery, London and Galeria Leme, Sao Paulo. *Viewing Station* will be his first public artwork.

About High Line Art

High Line Art is an ongoing series of new art commissions and creative partnerships, presenting contemporary art in, on, and near the park. High Line Art emphasizes site-specific pieces that respond to the uniqueness of the High Line in form, structure, and concept. The program's core goals are to provide and facilitate opportunities to artists to showcase their work in a public venue where they can reach wide audiences; to further enhance the excitement and uniqueness of the High Line; and to reinforce New York City, and in particular, the neighborhood around the High Line, as a vital cultural center. Selection and oversight of High Line Art is handled by Lauren Ross, the Donald R. Mullen, Jr. Curator and Director of Arts Programs at Friends of the High Line.

About the High Line

The High Line is a public park built on a 1.5-mile elevated freight rail structure. Originally constructed in the 1930s to deliver meat and agricultural goods to the industrial West Side, the High Line connects the west side neighborhoods of the Meatpacking District, West Chelsea, and Clinton/Hell's Kitchen. Section 1 of the park, running from Gansevoort Street to W. 20th Street, opened to the public in June 2009. Section 2 will extend north to W. 30th Street, and will open in spring 2011. Sections 1 and 2 are owned by the City of New York, and operated under the jurisdiction of the Department of Parks & Recreation, in partnership with the non-profit Friends of the High Line. The High Line is open daily from 7 AM to 10 PM. For more information, please visit www.thehighline.org.

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