



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Miki Carmi**  
***Psychic Readymades: New Paintings***

*Opening reception: Thursday, December 8, 2005  
December 8 - January 21, 2006*

**Stux Gallery** is pleased to present *Psychic Readymades: New Paintings* by **Miki Carmi**, on view through Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2006. For his first exhibition at the Stux Gallery, Carmi, a recent Columbia MFA program graduate who was born and raised in Jerusalem, explores the details of human physiognomy in an attempt to construct a contemporary icon for the human condition. Through the elimination and subversion of the basic logic of portraiture such as class depiction and narrative scenarios, and by “castrating” the pictorial space through the removal of hair, neck and torso, Carmi creates an uncanny correlation between the surface of the face and the surface of the paintings.

These monumental portraits are textured and reveal a palpable, sculptural quality. The highly impasto veneer rises and falls with every wrinkle, vein and age spot. Set on a background of thick white paint, heightening the drama of these intense monumental scale portraits, the viewer is drawn to the minutiae of the face; the reflective surface of the glistening eyes and moistened lips. These details, however, give way to what is of paramount importance, the gaze. It is the idiosyncratic and personal in the universality of the gaze that Carmi works hardest to capture and it is that which casts a glow over the paintings as a whole.

Carmi's process is consistent yet complex. Working from literally hundreds of family photographs strewn about the floor of his studio, Miki paints several portraits at one time, moving from one canvas to the next, belaboring over the works until all of the portraits have an engrossing and compelling presence. He does not paint from the photographs directly, however, he uses them to reintroduce memories of people that he knows in person in depth. These “memories” are reinterpreted often into three quarter views that further distort the individual identity of the subjects. The final portraits are a collection: mother, father, grandfather, grandmother and self. During the course of painting, identities shift and realities are lost to reveal underlying truths.

Miki Carmi received his M.F.A. from Columbia University in 2005 and graduated from Bezalel Academy of art and design in Jerusalem in 2003. He has exhibited at the Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art, Peekskill, NY, Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Art Gallery, New York, NY, and Kathryn Schultz Gallery, Cambridge, MA.

For further information please contact the gallery at [Joshua@stuxgallery.com](mailto:Joshua@stuxgallery.com)