

Avery Preesman University Gallery



March 30 - June 12, 2006

The University Gallery at the Fine Arts Center at the University of Massachusetts Amherst is pleased to present an exhibition of work by internationally acclaimed Dutch artist **Avery Preesman** from March 30 to June 12, 2006. This will be the artist's premiere museum survey exhibition in the U.S. In 2001, Preesman's major solo exhibition, "Bedrock", was on view at the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam. In 2003 he was Artist-in-Residence at the Chinati Foundation, founded by Donald Judd, in Mafa, Texas.

The exhibition is organized by guest curator **Gregory Salzman**, in collaboration with The Renaissance Society, at The University of Chicago, where the exhibition will open in fall 2006. A full color catalogue will be published next fall, documenting both exhibitions and including essays

by Gregory Salzman and Lawrence Rinder, Dean of Graduate Studies at the California College of the Arts and former curator of the Whitney Museum, New York.

Avery Preesman (b. 1968, Curaçao) is a Dutch artist whose process-based, experiential paintings and wall reliefs are among those that are reinvigorating abstraction today. His paintings consist of various layers of paint that are partly removed with a gouge, resulting in striated and ravaged fields of pulsating color and light that have a physical as well as optical appeal. He also creates abstract three-dimensional wall reliefs comprised of fulsome yet hollow lattices. They are remarkable for their spatial torsion that gives them both a corporeal identity and epic quality. Preesman's paintings and wall reliefs have a massive presence regardless of their actual size.

As Chris Dercon, former Director of the Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam, pointed out: "Avery Preesman breaks new ground in Dutch painting by his invigorating approach to painting. Unlike many young and older Dutch artists who take the flat surface as point of departure, Preesman imparts real depth to the painting. The work of Avery Preesman comprehends a very broad visual repertoire and obliges the viewer to make judgments and even to participate. With his surprising un-Dutch coloration and associative symbolism, he frees Dutch painting from purely visual seduction and a nostalgic longing for the past."

The exhibit is timed to coincide with *GoDutch!*, the Museums10 celebration of Dutch art and culture throughout the Pioneer Valley.

This exhibition is generously supported by the Mondriaan Foundation, Amsterdam. Additional support is provided by the Consulate General of The Netherlands, New York.

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A six-month celebration of Dutch art and culture in
Massachusetts's Pioneer
Valley, March - August 2006

