

Nicole Klagsbrun

BARNEY KULOK

IN VISIBLE CITIES

Nicole Klagsbrun Gallery is pleased to present its second solo exhibition by BARNEY KULOK: *In Visible Cities*, an exhibition of paintings running from September 10th to October 31st with a reception on September 10th from 6–8pm.

In an essay published on the occasion of the exhibition, art historian Svetlana Alpers asks: “What is a photographer to do when the phenomenon that interests him is such that a camera is of no use?”

In his second New York solo exhibition Kulok extends his formal inquiry of photography into the realm of painting. On four large-scale monochromatic panels the names of personal wireless Internet networks appear painted in low relief. Hundreds of words are arrayed in grids, creating a horizontal field of names and phrases: PrettyBoy olive in the city GEORGE flywithme sugarbush The Swamp mrsmoustache. The words are simultaneously public and private, fantastical and real, apparent and invisible. These four by eight foot panels sample contemporary experience to conjure a distinct poetics of everyday life. As landscape views they function as representations of both the place depicted and the moment of its recording; each panel documents all the names found between two predetermined points in Manhattan.

Linked to the archival, documentary impulses of Atget, Abbot, and Ruscha, Kulok’s taxonomical approach proposes an expanded definition of the photographic, and questions the role of photography in recording the contemporary environment. Alpers concludes, “despite the fact that the panels were made without the use of a camera, they are continuous with that experience and depiction of the world which only someone with a camera could have imagined doing.”

A book with an essay by Svetlana Alpers and a poem by Ron Padgett accompanies the exhibition.

Barney Kulok (b. 1981) received his BA from Bard College in 2004. His exhibitions include Galerie Hussenot, Paris; Galerie Elisabeth Kaufmann, Zürich; de Pury & Luxembourg, Zürich. In 2007 he collaborated with Svetlana Alpers and James Hyde on a book and exhibition, *Painting Then For Now*. He lives and works in New York.