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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JOHN PILSON

St. Denis

October 11 – November 15, 2003

Opening reception, Saturday, October 11, 6 – 8 pm

Gallery Hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 10 – 6pm

Nicole Klagsbrun Gallery is pleased to present an exhibition of video and photography by **John Pilson** opening on **October 11 through November 8, 2003.**

The events, both real and imagined, depicted in Pilson's single channel work, **St. Denis**, are inspired by a building's past and present. Built in the 1860s at the corner of 11th and Broadway, the St. Denis was originally a thriving hotel boasting both Abraham Lincoln and Ulysses S. Grant as one-time guests. Another notable event in the hotel's history – especially to the artist – was Alexander Graham Bell's first public demonstration of the telephone on the 2nd floor.

Over time both the neighborhood and the building dramatically changed: the surrounding storefronts were taken over by high-end antique stores and the St. Denis was converted into office space. Among the building more famous and infamous occupants were Marcel Duchamp and Lee Harvey Oswald. Duchamp maintained a secret studio on the 4th floor where his last work, Etant Donné was discovered and Oswald briefly worked for another of the St. Denis' tenants. Its current occupants consist almost entirely of psychoanalysts and massage therapists. White noise sound machines appear outside many of the office doors to insure the privacy of the conversations inside.

St. Denis becomes a travelogue of sorts; a navigation of daily transitions both gradual and abrupt, between street and corridor, refracted sunlight and shadow-less fluorescents, 19th Century exteriors and 20th Century interiors.

Another work in the exhibition features the gradual darkening visage of the Empire State Building, which was filmed in real time from dusk to darkness during the recent blackout in New York City. It becomes an unavoidable homage to Andy Warhol's, eight hour plus, Empire 1964, but is more a comment on the pure dramatics of light, both in its absence and in its unexpected manifestations.

This is John Pilson's second exhibition with Nicole Klagsbrun Gallery. He was a recipient of one of the "Prizes for a Young Artist" for his Moving Pictures at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York City.

**For more information, please contact the gallery at:
212-243-3335 or check out our website: www.nicoleklagsbrun.com**