

For Immediate Release:

## *Eigengrau*

Lauren Seiden and Frank Webster

April 19 – May 19, 2013

opening reception: Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup> 6 – 9 pm

Storefront Bushwick is pleased to present the work of Lauren Seiden and Frank Webster in a two-person show entitled "Eigengrau," a German word meaning "intrinsic gray"--also referred to as dark light or brain gray--the color seen by the eye in perfect darkness. Seiden and

Webster both have a dialogue with the tradition of minimalism from which they depart in a search to identify what cannot be named. Their work investigates absence, the numinous and meaning at the edge of perceptual and psychological experience, much as Eigengrau refers to neural activity in the absence of light.

Lauren Seiden creates atmospheric work that explores the relationship between light, line and dark ambiguities with attention to form, texture and surface. Her work explores the essential elements of process and materiality through an intuitive and intimate layering of graphite that tests the conventions of drawing, breaking down the surface and transforming the paper into a physical, metallic form. This process of rhythmic and layered mark-making results in compositions of subtle motion and tension that toy with a balance between control and chance. The work is simultaneously aggressive and hermetic, drawing the spectator into a dark, ominous world.

Frank Webster's paintings depict post-industrial landscapes and draw on the aesthetic traditions of minimalism and realism. Grounded in reality, the paintings abstract the ordinary so that the everyday world is made transcendent and strange and is imbued with an ethereal and melancholy beauty. The sharp juxtaposition of technology and romanticism evokes the environment in which we find ourselves and contemplates the paradox of this co-existence.

Kandinsky wrote that one of the paradoxes of modernism is that abstraction when pushed to its limit becomes realism, and realism taken to its extreme becomes abstraction. The work of these two artists offers an example of this theory. The paintings of Frank Webster appear to be highly realistic but on further contemplation become abstract. Lauren Seiden's drawings use an abstract vocabulary but assume the status of real objects in our environment. The work of Seiden and Webster is paradoxical and contradictory, outward and inward-looking, reminding us of art's ability to navigate the territory of the unknown.



*Wrap-2*  
graphite and pencil shavings  
on paper wrapped on  
stretcher bars  
12 x 15 in.  
Lauren Seiden 2013



*Tree and Tower Tokyo*  
acrylic on canvas  
60 x 45 in.  
Frank Webster 2011  
(image courtesy of  
Blackston Gallery)

In the project space:

## Joylynn Krystosek

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For her most recent body of work, Jolynn Krystosek creates wall-based sculptures with black felt and gold leaf. Influenced by natural shell structures, she constructs conical forms that call forth a somber personage. In contrast to her invented human forms, Krystosek cuts silhouettes of seaweed that twist over themselves when hung from the wall. The reflective qualities of gold leaf serve to outline the anatomy of the light-absorbing felt sculptures.



*Untitled*  
felt and gold leaf  
15 x 10.5 x 10 in.  
Jolynn Krystosek 2013

### About the Artists:

[Jolynn Krystosek](#) received her BFA from San Francisco State University in San Francisco, California and her MFA from Hunter College in New York, NY. She has exhibited throughout the United States including solo exhibitions at Lux Art Institute, Philadelphia Art Alliance, Lucas Schoormans Gallery, and The Horticultural Society of New York. Her work has recently been exhibited at Casey Kaplan Gallery, Racine Art Museum, and the Islip Art Museum. Jolynn's work has been mentioned in many publications including Surface Magazine, NY Arts Magazine, San Diego Union Tribune, the North County Times, the Shepard Express, and KPBS. She lives and works in Bushwick, Brooklyn.

[Lauren Seiden](#) lives and works in New York City. She received her BA from Bennington College in 2003, and in 2010 was awarded the "AOL Chuck Close 25 for 25" Grant. She has exhibited throughout the United States and Europe, including recent shows at Thierry Goldberg Gallery, Interstate Projects, McKenzie Fine Art, Nudashank, and Holly Johnson Gallery in Texas. She will be exhibiting in "The Benetton Project" this coming June in Venice, Italy, coinciding with the Venice Biennale. Her work has been featured in The Wall Street Journal, Societe Perrier, Satellite Magazine, ArtSlant, Chicago Art Review, ArtInfo, and AOLArtists.com.

[Frank Webster](#) is a painter who lives in Brooklyn, NY. Webster received his BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and his MFA from the Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University. He also attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. Webster is the recipient of numerous awards including the Pollock Krasner and the Golden Foundation Individual Artist Award. He has shown in solo and group exhibitions in New York at Blackston Gallery, Sara Meltzer Gallery and White Columns, among others. He has been awarded residencies at The Marie Walsh Sharpe Space Program, PS 122, Virginia Commonwealth University, The Ucross Foundation, The Corporation of Yaddo, The Ragdale Foundation and The MacDowell Colony. His work is represented in New York by Blackston Gallery.

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**DIRECTIONS:** L train to Brooklyn, Morgan Avenue stop. Walk four blocks on Morgan to Flushing Avenue. Cross Flushing Avenue to Wilson Avenue. Gallery is located between Noll and George Street.