

INMAN GALLERY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 23, 2012

Inman Gallery is pleased to present two exhibitions:

Amy Blakemore

New Pictures

and in the south gallery

Demetrius Oliver

Azimuth

March 2 – April 7, 2012

Opening Reception:

Friday March 2nd

6 – 8pm

Gallery hours: Tues. – Sat., 11 – 6

and by appointment



Amy Blakemore, *Retablos*, 2012
Chromogenic Print, ed. 10, 12 x 12 inches

Inman Gallery is pleased to announce two exhibitions to coincide with the 14th International Biennial of Photography and Photo-related Art presented by Fotofest. *New Works* by **Amy Blakemore** will be featured in the North Gallery. In the south gallery *Azimuth*, an exhibition of recent drawings by **Demetrius Oliver**, will be on view. Both exhibitions open Friday, March 2 with a reception from 6 to 8 pm. This is Blakemore's fifth solo exhibition at Inman Gallery, including a presentation for *FotoFest '96*, and her first since 2005. This is Oliver's third solo exhibition at Inman Gallery, including a presentation for *FotoFest 2010*.

Amy Blakemore's new photographs depict a variety of scenes the artist observed while traveling through Mexico and her home of Houston, Texas. Ranging from landscapes to portraits to still lifes, the images document situations in which objects have been arranged or placed on display—sometimes carefully, sometimes haphazardly, and sometimes inadvertently. One photograph, for example, shows *Retablos* posted in a church in Nuevo San Juan Parangaricutiro, while another shows a potted plant left along a plaza wall. Accordingly, some of Blakemore's subjects appear tended to, but others seem neglected or forgotten, or at least marked by indeterminate attention. Two other works reveal, respectively, wood boards obstructing—or protecting—paintings of saints, and a swimming pool abandoned mid-cleaning. Blakemore's images capture moments of accumulated incident and uncertain intention, provoking questions of past decisions and future lives.

The unsettled relationship between accident and design in Blakemore's images is accentuated by her use of idiosyncratic, low-tech, and often unpredictable cameras. The artist took the fifteen new images on view using a 35 mm square-format camera instead of her characteristic Diana cameras. Allowing a more tightly focused and even less self-conscious image, the camera is also not without quirks, which then require additional darkroom manipulation as Blakemore processes each print.

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Demetrius Oliver's new series of drawings derive from an installation he created at D'Amelio Terras Gallery in New York in fall 2011. Entitled *Orrery*, the installation featured umbrella frames and studio debris suspended around a single light bulb, mimicking the eponymous model used to depict the movements of the planets and their satellites in the Solar System. The drawings, the artist's first in ten years, recycle *Orrery's* umbrella ribs and stretchers to articulate line and space in two dimensions.

Oliver develops each drawing by arranging umbrella parts on paper, and then spraying the composition with blue (and sometimes white) paint. When Oliver removes the umbrella parts he reveals a stencil-like image of unpainted lines, which resemble star and constellation charts. Like the diagrammatic but chaotic *Orrery*, Oliver's drawings attempt to map and order space. Similar to his lens-based and sculpture work, the drawings employ ordinary objects to explore broad ideas concerning distant phenomena. An umbrella—an overhead, firmament-like architecture on a rainy day—is reconfigured to poetically suggest the potential shape of the cosmos. The drawings also resemble cyanotype photograms in appearance and process. However, such “hands off” qualities are mediated by Oliver's reworking of each drawing with colored pencil, complementing mechanical (scientific) detachment with a personal touch. The exhibition title, *Azimuth*, further evokes human investigation of the universal, as the term often denotes a locational measurement between an observer, a star, and the horizon.



Demetrius Oliver, *Parsec*, 2012
enamel and graphite pencil on paper
70 x 51 ½ inches

Amy Blakemore (born 1958, Tulsa, OK) lives and works in Houston, TX. She received a B.S. in Psychology and a B.A. in Art from Drury College (now Drury University), Springfield, MO, and an M.F.A. from the University of Texas at Austin. From 1985–86 she was an artist resident at the Core Program, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. Blakemore has exhibited her photographs throughout Texas and internationally for the last thirty years, including participating in the 2006 Whitney Biennial, *Day for Night*, curated by Chrissie Iles and Philippe Vergne, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY, and solo presentations at James Harris Gallery, Seattle, WA (2010) and the 2005 Pingyao International Festival for Photography in Pingyao, P.R. China. A twenty-year retrospective of her work, *Amy Blakemore Photographs 1988–2008*, was organized by Alison de Lima Greene at the MFAH (2009), and traveled to the Seattle Art Museum (2010) and the Oklahoma City Museum of Art (2011). She is head of the Photography Department at the Glassell School, MFAH where she has taught for the past 26 years.

Demetrius Oliver (born 1975, Brooklyn, NY) lives and works in New York, NY. He received a B.F.A. from the Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI and an M.F.A. from the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, and attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Skowhegan, ME. From 2004–06 he was an artist resident at the Core Program, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX and from 2006–07 an artist-in-residence at The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY. Oliver was a Light Work (Syracuse, NY) artist-in-residence in 2009. His work has been exhibited widely, with recent solo exhibitions at D'Amelio Terras, New York, NY (2011 and 2008); Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA (2009); Rhodes College, Memphis, TN (2009); and The Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston (2006). *Jupiter*, a public commission including a 25-by-75-foot billboard, musical performances, and stargazing, occurred on the High Line in New York in September 2010.

For more information, please contact the gallery at 713.526.7800 or info@inmangallery.com.