

## Wyer Gallery Press Info

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Henry Carroll  
American Places

4 May – 2 June 2007

Private View: Thursday 3 May 18.30 – 20.30

Wyer Gallery is pleased to announce new photographic works by Henry Carroll. Carroll's photographs appear to present nature's grand spectacles, yet the geographical features he depicts are often named, fenced off, delineated and made safe, exemplifying man's instinctual efforts to possess the natural landscape around him. His work forms a somewhat wistful rejoinder to the images of the 19th century US photographers who recorded the American West in all its sublime grandeur, while at the same time allowing notions of *Manifest Destiny* to lurk ominously within the frame.

In reality, Carroll's photographs depict meticulously produced scale models, which he designs and then develops in collaboration with his model maker. As a result, these landscapes ultimately exist only as images, as once photographed, the model is destroyed. Within the resulting pictorial spaces, Carroll has carefully manipulated focus and depth-of-field, which plays with our traditional notions of photographic scale and perspective. The complexity of Carroll's work lies in this duality, as the sheer tangibility of his images and the personal sense of knowing his landscapes soon become undermined by their implausibility.

By exemplifying the burlesque qualities of such places, which, in reality, seem only to exist to be observed, Carroll's landscapes become similar to theatrical stages awaiting habitation. In his most recent work, 'Sunset in the Yosemite Valley' Carroll has taken Albert Bierstadt's famous painting of the same name and commissioned his model maker to precisely reconstruct the scene as a three-dimensional, miniature landscape. This homage to Bierstadt seems a natural progression, as in past works Carroll has adopted a similar approach to the painter, basing his landscapes on actual places then exaggerating particular features and

playing with our perceptions of scale. Unlike Bierstadt, however, many of Carroll's landscapes are a self-conscious, almost perverse, representation of the modern sublime.

Models made by Nigel Howlett  
[For further details please contact the Gallery]

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## Biographical Details

### **Henry Carroll**

b. 1979 England; lives and works in London.

### **Education**

2003-05 MA Photography, Royal College of Art  
1999-2002 BA Hons Photography, Surrey Institute of Art and Design

### **Solo Exhibitions**

#### **2007**

American Places, Wyer Gallery, London

### **Group Exhibitions**

#### **2007**

'Reiseblikk', touring group show, Oslo Kunstforening, Norway

'Reiseblikk', touring group show, Halden Kunstforening, Norway

#### **2006**

'Views from the Inside', four person show, The Beton Salon, Vienna

#### **2005**

The FSA, four person show, London,

The Portabello Film Festival, Westbourne Studios, London

The Prenelle Gallery, London

'The Show 2005', Royal College of Art, London

'Photography 2005', Royal College of Art, London

#### **2004**

The European Parliament, Brussels

'Time Share', East London

'Photography 2004', Royal College of Art, London

#### **2003**

The Concourse Gallery, London

#### **2002**

'Flight', Old Truman Brewery, London

### **Publications**

Royal Photographic Society Journal, Focus on Wyer Gallery, May 2007

Author of Fourteen Zebra, published by John Blake Sept 2006 200pg h/b

Creative Review Magazine, The Best Work on Display at this Year's Degree Shows, Sept. 02.

Flux Magazine, commissioned photographic work.

### **Collections**

FSA Art Collection, London

### **Awards**

South Square Trust, Fine Art competition - Winner 2003