

m i r a c l e^{BH} b e v e r l y h i l l s

LG WILLIAMS: EXIT | NO EXIT

DECEMBER 12 – JANUARY 12, 2003

As part of its current exhibition, [miracle gallery beverly hills](#)[®] is pleased to present "[EXIT | NO EXIT](#)", an installation by American artist LG Williams.

The idea for this exhibition came about this past spring while working on another major effort, the epic and sensational "[Everyone Sucks](#)" implemented in October 2002 and continually developed by the artist in recent months since.

While producing "Everyone Sucks" in San Francisco, LG received a gift from the Mexican-American artist [Hector](#): Exit and No Exit signs stolen from public toilets during a rock concert in Sacramento featuring the Tex-Mex band Los Lobos.

It was next a matter of pressing them into a suitable form. The creative process of determining shape, space and thought provides an exemplary illustration of the "ping-pong effect" that operates when LG Williams delves long, hard and deep. A perfect synthesis of individual artistic intention is reached through the almost playful-seeming exchange of ideas, with each concept containing the seed for the next.



LG Williams installation, Exit | No Exit, at miracle gallery in Beverly Hills, California.

The specific form of the Exit, No Exit signs, a basic rectangle - the standard formal reference, was last employed by LG Williams in May 2002 for the kinetic sculpture "[Kiss My Freaking Ass \(Just The Motherfuckers\)](#)" and taken up again in June in a series of "[Dark Secret](#)" photographs. However, the idea of the rectangular form can be traced back to earlier pieces from the artist, even before Exit | No Exit came together.

A single 11x17 inch "Exit Sign", suspended from the ceiling, is presented in the exhibition together with several "No Exit Signs". The latter are hung on the wall, located in the same site as the "Exit Sign". These ready-mades fascinated the artist due to their complete coincidental form and the fact that these perfect pictures – actually the product of an industrial manufacturing process – could also be found in any significant commercial, industrial or residential building.

What is special about the project for LG Williams is that this is neither an abstract artistic utterance in the classic sense, nor is it a specific proclamation restricted to a limited time frame. Rather, the idea of the project is continuously developing over years, taken up again and again for more and more money, and possibly branching off to major international artistic venues. From an interactive point of view, the artwork fits easily into any personal ideology, yet one can always identify with some single overarching psychophysical fabrication.

The meta-installation, as a specific form of artist production, is a central theme in the exhibition. In addition, LG Williams has evoked a series of collages that Guy Debord had created in 1949. With this lingering echo from a distant esoteric inference, not only is artistic energy exchanged between the two artists from different generations, but also historical affinities and intersections are sought. The artistic energy yielded in this exchange becomes multiplied as in a *"perpetuum articus maximobilis"*.

According to Guy Debord, a Situationist is someone concerned with the "construction of situations". Debord was one of the first who took note of the creeping penetration of "fabulations" into the domain of "high culture" and who sought to further this gradual blurring of boundaries between the two realms. Perhaps this is the source of LG Williams's fascination with The Great Beyond, for his aesthetic appears to oscillate between Hollywood and Virtual, whereby both realms are treated with the same seriousness and analytic approach.

"Exit | No Exit" is not an hermetically enclosed artwork, but a complex situation that can be read on multiple levels, constructing a network of references and ultimately avoiding any sort of exhaustive definition. And precisely for this reason, this artwork in turn exerts an unavoidable pull for veteran and naïve viewers alike.

The "Exit | No Exit" exhibition is accompanied by an artist book created by LG Williams with a text by Dr. Xie Zhao Ping.

Guided tours of the exhibition will be offered at 12:30pm on Wednesdays.

Miracle gallery

www.miraclegallery.web-page.net

Hours: Tue–Fri 12 noon–6 p.m., Sat 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

Contact gallery for location of venue.