



CHRIS BALLANTYNE

A NEW RELEASE FROM PAULSON PRESS

Paulson Press is proud to announce the release of five new prints by San Francisco based artist **Chris Ballantyne**. The prints will be available in **October 2004**.

These new prints continue Ballantyne's focus on the tension between nature and culture, commenting on contemporary American society's efforts to control and shape the places we live in. Many of his works depict familiar elements from suburban environments, such as swimming pools, roadways, parks, and parking lots, often in isolation. The minimalist detachment creates a sense of calm and allows the viewer to question the everyday landscapes that surround.

Four of the five prints are printed on gampi paper and mounted to maple plywood. The grain of the wood can be seen through the paper creating a sculptural physicality.

UNTITLED (POOL) places a light blue kidney-shaped swimming pool, empty of water, next to a pile of orange dirt whose shape mirrors the pool's. The man-made pool, with its faint pink halo, could suggest civilization, while the pile of dirt removed from the pool's digging remains messy and natural, yet almost animate. The pairing of natural and artificial, concave and convex opens a dynamic dialogue.

UNTITLED (CLIFF) contrasts a small patch of delicate greenery at the upper right corner against the massive brown striated cliff that dominates the rest of the print. The abstract folds of the rock reveal what lies beneath the pleasant green grass we walk on daily. The dislocating perspective adds to the mystery of the scene.

UNTITLED (BERM), features a grove of bucolic green-leafed trees growing from a square of grass marked precisely by a curb; the grove is set in a grid of lines that extend into an expanse of grayish beige parking lot. The trees seem to huddle together for protection against the encroachment of the man-made world.

In **UNTITLED (SUBMERGED ROCKS)**, a great abstract stretch of gray-blue water suddenly hints at the figurative where waves break around the small but ominous tips of dark rocks. The tension between the flat picture plane and the illusion of depth gives the image surprising force.

UNTITLED (BRIDGE) is a diptych featuring a pale- gray bridge that crosses cerulean blue water as it stretches diagonally from the upper left of one panel to the lower right of the other. While massive supports underlie each end of the bridge, slim, fragile-looking columns prop up the center, which is also interrupted by the void between the panels. No cars or people are visible on the bridge, and it is unclear whether crossing the bridge would be safe.

Ballantyne was born in Mobile, Alabama in 1972 and received his MFA from the San Francisco Art Institute in 2002. His work has been shown at the Phoenix Art Museum in Arizona, DCKT Contemporary in New York, and Galerie Hof & Huyser in Amsterdam; his first solo museum exhibition opens in February 2005 at the Cheekwood Museum of Art in Nashville, Tennessee. He is represented by Peres-Projects in Los Angeles.

For more information please contact Paulson Press at 510-559-2088. Images can be seen at www.paulsonpress.com.

Prices and availability subject to change without notice.



UNTITLED (POOL), 2004

Color sugarlift aquatint and aquatint etching. Handmade gampi paper mounted on maple plywood.

Image and paper size: 12" x 16"

Edition of 30



UNTITLED (CLIFF), 2004

Color aquatint and sugarlift and spitbite aquatint etching. Handmade gampi paper mounted on maple plywood.

Image and paper size: 12" x 16"

Edition of 30



UNTITLED (BERM), 2004

Color aquatint and sugarlift and spitbite aquatint etching. Handmade gampi paper mounted on maple plywood.

Image and paper size: 12" x 16"

Edition of 30



UNTITLED (SUBMERGED ROCKS), 2004

Color sugarlift aquatint and aquatint etching. Handmade gampi paper mounted on maple plywood.

Image and paper size: 12" x 16"

Edition of 30



UNTITLED (BRIDGE), 2004

Color sugarlift aquatint and aquatint etching.

Image size: 15" x 42 3/16"

Paper size: 24 1/4" x 49 3/4"

Edition of 30