

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 Driscoll Babcock Galleries
 525 West 25th Street
 New York, NY 10001
 www.driscollbabcock.com

Monday – Thursday: 10:00am – 6:00pm
 Friday: 10:00am – 5:00pm

T. 212 767 1852



Wafaa Bilal, CHAIR, 2003-2012
 Archival Inkjet Photograph, 40 x 50 inches

Contained Conflict

July 11-August 9, 2013

Opening Reception: Thursday, July 11, 6-8 pm

DRISCOLL BABCOCK GALLERIES presents *Contained Conflict*, a group exhibition featuring works whose hauntingly beautiful exteriors belie the fact that just below the surface there exists discord and dissension. The artists in the exhibition come from diverse backgrounds and work in varied mediums, yet all invoke our instinctual and universal desire for resolution, to overcome pitfalls and seek harmony within the chaotic. Addressing tensions ranging from the global to the personal, these works become acts of rebellion- fighting to extract beauty from the most tumultuous political and psychological situations.

The subtly refined photographs from Wafaa Bilal's Ashes Series depict models constructed by the artist based on a set of 10 mass-syndicated images documenting the destruction of Iraq. Taking cues from photomontages created by German Dadaists in the wake of World War I, Bilal has reconstructed and rearranged these images, creating an interactive visual narrative exposing the powerful link between the media and public opinion, and challenging our sense of perception. By withdrawing the human figures present in the original photographs and replacing them with 21 grams of human ashes scattered in each model, Bilal's images become static and calm – almost peaceful.

Several artists offer meditative reflections on the psychologically-charged relationship between remembrance and denial, erasure and violence. Harriet Bart's **DRAWN IN SMOKE**, 2010 at first glance appears to be a series of delicate abstractions, but is in fact an elegiac homage to the lives lost in the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire, one of the deadliest industrial disasters in U.S. history. Bahar Behbahani's dream-like images reflect the complex political and individual desire to both remember and forget, chronicling the violent images of her childhood in Tehran in an attempt to find beauty within the maelstrom of repressed memories.

Margaret Bowland's **THE TEA PARTY** from the series **BABES IN THE WOODS**, 2013 and Jenny Morgan's **GREAT DIVIDE**, 2013 express the inner struggle to maintain independence in the face of societal emphasis on conformity and competition, eloquently drawing out a subtle force and quiet energy in their figures. Both Morgan's bisected figure and Bowland's lost girls embody the dualities of identity and the challenge to combine public expectations with private ones. At once heroic and trapped, strong but subdued, their subjects confront the social pressures of popular culture with a cool resolve, in the process achieving larger than life status.

Contained Conflict also features works by Doug Argue, Marylyn Dintenfass, Pieter Hugo, Paulo Laport, Robert Longo, Patricia Piccinini, and Varda Yatom.

ABOUT DRISCOLL BABCOCK GALLERIES

Driscoll Babcock Galleries, founded in 1852, is the oldest gallery in New York City, and the nation's oldest gallery which from its inception has focused on American art. During the tenure of current president Dr. John Driscoll, the gallery has helped to secure numerous prized works for major private collectors and museums across the country including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; National Gallery of Art, the Smithsonian American Art Museum and the National Portrait Gallery, all in Washington, D.C.; The Cleveland Museum; The Detroit Institute of Arts; Minneapolis Institute of Arts; Greenville County Museum of Art, South Carolina; Crystal Bridges Museum in Bentonville Arkansas; The Kemper in Kansas City; The Museum of Fine Arts-Houston and dozens of other museums.

For additional information and images, please contact Tess Schwab, Associate Director
tschwab@driscollbabcock.com