

JASON RULNICK

230 FIFTH AVENUE #809 NEW YORK, NY 10001 TEL: 212 244 7071 FAX: 212 244 7072

Charles Gute: FIND-A-TEXT

Exhibition: Thursday, November 6 – Friday, December 12, 2008

Public reception: Thursday, November 6, 5–7 pm

Jason Rulnick is pleased to announce “FIND-A-TEXT,” a solo exhibition of works by Charles Gute that will inaugurate the gallery’s new location.

Gute has created a series of canvas wall works that resonate with text-based art-making practices that first emerged during the late sixties and early seventies. Yet the works will at the same time be immediately recognizable to a much broader audience: they are in the form of a popular puzzle format—known variously as Word Search, Word Find, etc.—in which words are “hidden” within a field of random letters. Like the conceptual works they visually echo, which were often self-published and circulated outside traditional art contexts, such puzzles also emerged during the late 1960s; the first was reputedly published in 1968 in the *Selenby Digest*, a listing of local want ads that was distributed for free at a supermarket in Norman, Oklahoma. Cheaply printed and bound collections of these puzzles are still sold today as impulse items at grocery checkout counters and newsstands.

Unlike popular word search puzzles that commonly contain hidden words grouped around pop-cultural themes such as television or sports, Gute’s austere text grids contain names and references that are grounded firmly within the realm of contemporary art. In each work, the contemplative gaze of the viewer is conflated with that of the puzzle-solver looking for hidden words. This dual reception playfully questions the notion of art as a “puzzle” with hidden meanings that the viewer must decode in order to appreciate.

The exhibition is accompanied by a 96-page paperback publication—a book that both emulates the look and feel of mass-market puzzle books and that effectively functions as a catalogue raisonné of this particular body of work.

Charles Gute is a Brooklyn-based artist and editor. He has been awarded artist fellowships from the San Francisco Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, and has twice been a MacDowell Colony Visual Arts Fellow. His work has been included in exhibitions at the Berkeley Art Museum (Berkeley), ZKM (Karlsruhe, Germany), the UCLA Hammer Museum (Los Angeles), Catherine Clark Gallery (San Francisco) and Feinkost Gallery (Berlin). In the fall of 2008 his work will be the subject of a hardcover monograph published by The Ice Plant, Los Angeles.

230 Fifth Avenue at 27th Street, #809

N, W, R trains to 23rd or 28th street, one block east

Public reception Thursday, November 6, 2008; Gallery hours: 12–4 pm Friday, Saturday and other viewings by appointment (Nov. 28 – Dec. 6 by appointment only)

Contact Mechele Manno tel. 212 244 7071; gallery@jasonrulnick.com