

## Martin Bennett: *Park Life/Country Life* November 16 - December 21, 2007

Please join us for the opening of the exhibition on Friday, November 16 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. The artist will be in attendance.



Martin Bennett, *Static Image*  
*Painting/Grey/Pigeon/Tree*  
*Branches, 2007*  
Oil on canvas  
167.6 x 243.8 cm

Photo courtesy of  
Esplanade Art Gallery

TrépanierBaer is pleased to present *Park Life/Country Life*, an exhibition of new and recent works by Martin Bennett. In this exhibition, Bennett continues his body of Static Image Paintings, directing his painterly gaze and photographic lens on animals he has encountered in European and Canadian parks.

"What has happened more recently is that my paintings have gone from a greater expanse to focusing on the details - like the animals - locating the subject within a larger whole," says Bennett.

Bennett's Static Image Paintings have become well known for their exploration of the relationship between abstraction and image making. Using a complex reductive method involving photography, photocopying, drawing, painting and sanding, these works alter the viewer's expectations of traditional forms of representation and abstraction.

The central image of each painting functions as a core, says Bennett, who works with contradictory points, shifting colours and backgrounds to both complement and disrupt the photographic source of each work. The result leaves the viewer always on the cusp of getting close to the painting, before it moves back into the distance. This dynamic interaction is at the heart of Bennett's pursuit of abstraction.

Martin Bennett is currently based in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, but divides his time between other cities in Canada, England and Italy. Born in 1970 in Winchester, England, Bennett immigrated to Canada in 1975 and grew up in Medicine Hat, Alberta. He studied painting at the Alberta College of Art and Design, graduating with distinction in 1992, the same year he joined TrépanierBaer.

Bennett has exhibited consistently both in Canada and abroad. A solo exhibition of Bennett's work entitled *The Geometry of All Four Seasons* is currently on view at Clint Roenisch Gallery in Toronto and will run from November 8 through December 22, 2007. His work was recently featured in a solo exhibition entitled *The Shaded Concept*, curated by Joanne Marion at the Esplanade Art Gallery in Medicine Hat, Alberta. A catalogue documenting the exhibition with text by Christian Eckart will be forthcoming in early 2008. Bennett's work was also featured in a 2006/07 group exhibition at The Power Plant in Toronto entitled *We Can Do This Now*, curated by Gregory Burke and Helena Reckitt. Bennett's work can be found in numerous private and public collections across Canada including the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Glenbow Museum, Canadiana Fund, and the Kelowna Art Gallery to name a few.

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