

For Immediate Release:

## Robyn O'Neil On sinking.

11 September – 17 October 2009

Opening Reception: 13 November, 5–8pm

Tony Wight Gallery is pleased to announce *On sinking.*, an exhibition of new drawings by acclaimed artist Robyn O'Neil. A limited-edition suite of prints, published in conjunction with this exhibition, will also be available through the gallery.

Robyn O'Neil's obsessively detailed drawings have become widely known for their pointed and metaphorical investigations of such inauspicious thematic as the apocalypse, evolution, mass disaster and extinction. O'Neil's earlier works were often densely populated and epic in scale with communities of little men in uniform tracksuits parading around desolate landscapes, seemingly unaware of the danger their surroundings presented. As this series progressed, the turbulence of their environment became increasingly palpable. Ultimately, O'Neil concluded the eight-year saga with a drawing of the sole surviving member of the community hanging tenuously over a tumultuous ocean; the extinction of the little men was imminent.

In O'Neil's latest series, the dire trajectory of her previous narrative begins to destabilize, the drawings becoming increasingly iconic, poetic and dream-like. Rather than signaling a newfound hope, these images create an emotional ambience that suggests an uncertain future. The world is unhinged and dismantled. Each drawing is able to function like an individual song or poem that may or may not relate to the drawings hung around it. Released from an explicit narrative, these works revel in the formal qualities of drawing.

Robyn O'Neil (American, b. 1977) lives and works in Houston, Texas. Recent solo exhibitions include *The Dismantled* at Praz-Delavallade in Berlin, and *A World Disrupted* at Roberts and Tilton in Los Angeles. In 2006, the Contemporary Arts Museum in Houston, Texas organized the artist's first one person museum survey, which traveled to the Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, and the Frye Art Museum, Seattle, Washington. O'Neil has also been included in many prestigious group museum exhibitions including the 2004 Whitney Biennial. Her work can be found in the permanent collections of the Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, Texas; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Ulrich Museum of Art, Wichita, Kansas; Blanton Museum of Art, Austin, Texas; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas; Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, Missouri; among many others. Robyn O'Neil was featured in *Vitamin D*, a survey of contemporary drawings published by Phaidon Press in 2005.

The exhibition will be on view from 11 September – 17 October 2010

A reception will be held for the artist at the gallery on Thursday, September 11th, from 5–8pm.

For information please call John Henderson at 312.492.7261, or email at info@tonywightgallery.com