

DOLBY CHADWICK GALLERY

Rick Chapman

Circle

October 6 - May 29, 2005

Rick Chapman's exhibit "Circle" is a multi-media installation featuring photography, wooden totems, tumbleweeds and river rocks. This body of work is focused on the documentation of found circles. Chapman's decade long obsession with searching rivers and creeks for near-perfect spherical rocks has fueled an interest in considering the universal truth of the circle. Intermittent research on circle themes found in most world religion's iconography, architecture and natural structure systems raised his awareness of the circle as an essential form.

Striving to root his art in the everyday, Chapman photographs circular objects in mundane locations such as elevators, barnyards, city streets and public parks. In the photographs, each found circle is presented as the same size. By equalizing the scale, each circle is viewed in context of the other circles rather than in the context of its original surroundings. The circle images become letters of a lost alphabet- together they communicate a language that transcends the individual sphere. Chapman's bold graphic sensibility is in balance with the careful intimacy he has with his subjects. Each object is carefully documented with its location and date found. At the core of Chapman's circle dialogue are several large wooden totem made of found wood, inlayed with a series of photographs. Chapman uses the iconic presentation of the totem to elevate the mundane, hoping to remind his audience of the natural source of all objects.

Born in Ohio in 1966, Rick Chapman currently lives in San Francisco. His work is held in collections throughout the United States including LA County Museum, The Museum of Fine Arts Houston, and the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery. This is his first solo show at the Dolby Chadwick Gallery.