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DAVID OPDYKE

MANIFEST DESTINATION

September 6 – October 11

I am interested in the tension between the authority of a believable image and the absurdity of that image's content.

-David Opdyke, New York, 2008

Ronald Feldman Fine Arts is pleased to announce *Manifest Destination*, an exhibition of recent sculptures and drawings by David Opdyke. A self-proclaimed "NPR junkie," Opdyke's work explores contemporary issues such as globalization, consumerism and military escalation. He deftly handles these topics with a touch of humor, and much of his work can be seen as an exercise in controlled chaos.

Opdyke's process is open-ended; he begins with a few structural rules and a limited kit of components, and allows the work to grow intuitively from those guidelines. He likens the building process to metastasis: "a barely-controlled accumulation of elements leading to decisions and forms [he] would never have anticipated or predicted." The result of this guided entropy is exemplified in large sculptures like *Zenith* (2008) and *Dredge* (2007).

In direct juxtaposition to his large-scale sculptures, the artist will exhibit a group of miniature wall sculptures. Opdyke uses miniaturization to propose projects of absurd ambition and size while maintaining a sense of believability. "In the grown-up world," he explains, "a scale model presents a convincing alteration of reality, conveying authority and the existence of a well-considered plan. At the same time, models are a branch of the toy family: they can lend their credibility to half-baked and preposterous schemes."

Themes of accumulation and disarray bleed over to Opdyke's drawings, as well. A seemingly straightforward rendering of land masses, upon closer inspection, becomes heaps of empty packages and detritus, as seen in works like *Mini Storage* and *Inventory*. The aggregation of objects can take on the characteristics of a landscape, forcing an inversion of foreground and background. No longer objects in a landscape, but a landscape of objects.

This is David Opdyke's first solo exhibition with the Feldman Gallery. His work has previously been exhibited in Milan, Chicago, Washington, D.C., and at Roebing Hall in New York City. Mr. Opdyke received the Aldrich Emerging Artist Award from the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum in 2004, and the New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship in Sculpture in 2005.

Opening Reception: Saturday, September 6, 6-8pm. The exhibition runs through October 11th. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10am-6pm. Monday by appointment. For more information, contact Sarah Paulson at (212) 226-3232 or sarah@feldmangallery.com.