

TRACY WILLIAMS, Ltd
313 bis WEST 4 STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10014
TELEPHONE: 212.229.2757
FAX: 212.229.2571
WWW.TRACYWILLIAMSLTD.COM



Ludwig Wangburg Bandshell (City of Clear Lake, 1954) Clear Lake, Iowa

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CINDY BERNARD

4 November - 23 December 2005

Tracy Williams, Ltd. is pleased to present an exhibition of photographs by Los Angeles artist Cindy Bernard. Recently featured in *Visual Music* at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles in 2005, Bernard's work investigates the social spaces involved with cinema, performance and music. This will be the artist's first solo exhibition in New York.

This exhibition presents selections from the *Ask the Dust* trilogy and *Bandshells*, featuring works from 1989 through 2005 that bridge Bernard's interests in cinema and sound.

Bernard's *Ask the Dust* and *Grandfather Photos* represent two of the three parts of the *Ask the Dust* trilogy. In *Ask the Dust* (1989-1992), the artist explores the relationship between cinema, memory and landscape by returning to the locations of 21 films released between 1954 and 1974, years that marked a transformation in American culture culminating with Nixon's resignation in 1974. In this series, Bernard re-photographs a shot from each film, capturing the location devoid of the original cinematic markers except for aspect ratio and film stock. In the *Grandfather Photos* (1989), Bernard examines the photographic archive of her grandfather, William Adams, who obsessively documented family vacations. From the archive, Bernard selects the 20 photographs in which the family was mostly absent, presenting shots of the pure open road that are nearly identical despite being shot over 29 years. Although the *Ask the Dust* trilogy has been exhibited internationally and is included in the collection of MOCA, this will be the first time works from the trilogy are shown in New York.

Since 2001, Bernard's work has shifted from documenting the residue of the cinematic experience to exploring that of music and sound. Since 2003, Bernard has been traveling across the United States photographing municipal bandshells, the sites in city squares and parks that function as public commons for the experience of music. The artist photographs these bandshells—or band shelters—when the structures are not in use. Jan Tumlir in *Artforum* writes about the work, “As the silence that is germane to the medium becomes figurally pervaded with sound, it gives way to an aesthetic that is autonomous, in that it resists translation into words, but is not apolitical. Like Bernard's earlier photographs, these position the viewer not to one side or the other so much as right in between: between production and reception, picture and sound, the aesthetic and the social—at the very sites where culture is negotiated.”

Bernard's practice incorporates a long-standing commitment to social change and art advocacy, evidenced by her founding and continuing involvement with SASSAS, The Society for the Activation of Social Space through Art and Sound. During the first week of November, Bernard's collaboration with David Hatcher, *The Inquisitive Musician*, will be performed at a local venue to accompany the opening of this exhibition.

For further information and images, please contact the gallery at 212.229.2757.
Gallery Hours: Tuesday- Saturday, 11-6

Join us for the opening on Friday, the 4th of November from 6 to 8 p.m.