

D A N E S E

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H2O

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 10 - August 22, 2003

Danese is pleased to present H2O, an exhibition of work in various media by a number of contemporary artists that examines the basic, yet mysterious bond between human beings and water.

Water is H2O. The simplicity of its composition, two parts hydrogen, one part oxygen, its preponderance of 3 to 1 over the globe's dry land, its ubiquity as constituting 90% of the human body—all are in keeping with its universality, its familiarity, its democratic nature. Water is the most receptive of the elements; our examination of it always involves us in self-reflection. It is the reciprocity of our engagement with water that makes it the natural element of artistic contemplation. Gaston Bachelard, in *Water and Dreams: An Essay on the Imagination of Matter*, claims that just as we need to see, the world needs to be seen and that water is the natural conduit for such intercourse.

The artists in the exhibition H2O explore our relationship with the element that is the major component of our bodies, the site of our origins, and a matrix of the imagination. They focus on the water contained in our bodies and water that contains our bodies, actual ponds and rivers, as well as water that populates our dreams and reveries.¹

H2O, organized by Jo Anna Isaak, independent curator and Professor of Art History at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, is accompanied by an illustrated catalogue and features the work of: Laura Aguilar, Janet Biggs, Carol Cole, Dorothy Cross, Jenny Gage, Amy Jenkins, Mark Jones, Nadav Kander, Samm Kunce, Annea Lockwood, Javier Machado, Sally Mann, Eileen Neff, Nurit Newman, Christy Rupp, Bonnie Rychlak, Jeanne Silverthorne, Kiki Smith, Nancy Spero, May Stevens, Susan Unterberg, Mia Westerlund Roosen, Sabine Haubitz & Stefanie Zoche.

Summer hours are Monday to Thursday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Friday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. For further information, please contact Adam Sheffer or Carol Corey at 212/223-2227.

¹ Isaak, Jo Anna. *H2O*. Geneva, NY: Hobart & William Smith College Press, 2002.