

mesler&hug 510 bernard street, los angeles, ca 90012
tel. 323-221-0016 fax. 323-343-1133 www.meslerandhug.com

Helen Verhoeven
Events One and Two
October 18- November 15, 2008
Opening Reception: Saturday, October 18, 6-8 pm



PRESS RELEASE

Mesler&Hug is pleased to present Helen Verhoeven: *Events One and Two*, simultaneously exhibiting at Wallspace Gallery in New York (Event One) and Mesler&Hug (Event Two). The subject of Verhoeven's new body of work surrounds the notion of the event. The centerpiece painting, which is four meters long, commands the focus of the audience and depicts the main scene. Using a myriad of styles (painterly, flat, classical, unnatural perspectives) various activities at a party are portrayed. The surrounding paintings in both exhibitions are close ups of elements taken from the main painting entitled *Event One* and *Event Two*. The small paintings crop individual interactions between the characters and focus on the details to create a new mood, different from that of the main painting.

Conceptually, both exhibitions explore the typical characteristics of an "event." By combining different styles, and magnifying pieces of the painting, the small paintings become individual while being part of a larger event. These cropped snapshots are of portraits, still lives and different compositions from the main painting. They are the party within the party that is familiar to the audience. Verhoeven's dark palette and relatively monochromatic red and purple hues create a quiet mood of a place where people engage physically, but are detached completely. The separation of paintings further emphasizes the idea of isolation. While being somber, there are moments of humor: the classical paintings within paintings, the play on traditional style and the anachronism of a modern party trapped in an aged interior.

Helen Verhoeven is Dutch-American painter who grew up in Los Angeles. She currently lives and works in New York. This is her third solo exhibition with Wallspace in New York. There is a catalogue available of the complete work from both exhibitions.

For more information or for images please contact Vera Neykov at info@meslerandhug.com