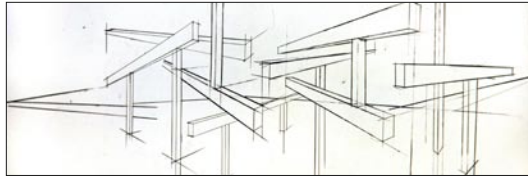


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JOHN WATSON, details from "Better now than they once was," drawings and site specific installation at 1341 H Street,- NE

CONTACT:

Natalie Zelt
HEMPHILL Fine Arts
1515 14th Street NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.234.5601
natalie@hemphillfinearts.com

JOHN WATSON, *Better now than they once was*, September 19, 2008 – November 1, 2008

Washington, DC – *Better now than they once was*, an installation by John Watson, opens at 1341 H Street, NE with a reception on September 19, 2008 from 7:00-9:00pm. The exhibition is sponsored by HEMPHILL and Taurus Development.

Watson's site-specific installation is composed of post and beam structures, placed to reorient the gallery into a series of new engaging spaces. The H street installation also includes five spare graphite drawings on oversized sheets of paper, which further emphasize the thoughtfully manipulated space. The structures and drawings bring a heightened awareness to the architecture and compel the audience to reexamine the ways that art can exist in all spaces, from inside the gallery to the street.

"My intention was to draw attention to the existing architectural detail by confronting viewers with strange, out of place, and functionless reproductions. Additionally, I want to draw attention to space itself. By intersecting the space with new beams, the viewers attention is drawn towards an exploration of space... Ideally viewers will be left to question the possibility that any raw, unfinished space might be art."

--John Watson

John Watson received his Master of Fine Arts from the University of Maryland and has been the subject of solo exhibitions at HEMPHILL, Washington, DC, Laumier Sculpture Park, St. Louis, MO, and the Savannah Gallery, Atlanta, GA, among others. Watson currently lives and works in St. Louis, Missouri, where he is a professor of sculpture at Webster University.

Better now than they once was at 1341 H Street, NE will be open to the public on Saturdays from 10:00am-4:00pm and by appointment with HEMPHILL.

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