



542 WEST 24TH STREET  
NEW YORK, NY USA 10011  
1+[212]989.8700 T / 8708 F  
WWW.FREIGHTANDVOLUME.COM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 7 – April 8, 2006

Reception: Saturday, March 11, 2006, 6-8 PM

### **MICHAEL SCOGGINS**

“Recent Drawings”

With his most recent body of work, Georgia-based **Michael Scoggins** continues to expand the definition of drawing through his use of monumental sheets of hand-drawn notebook paper, which hang crumpled and tattered from the wall. This familiar icon, with its blue lines and spiral bound edges, has become the signature image for the artist – a place where he offers what writer Lara Herndon described as “a poignant glimpse of the emotional landscape of childhood filtered through a mature sensibility.”

As iconic artifacts from American culture, Scoggins’ notebook pages and his appreciation of the everyday conjure associations with a range of Pop artists from Andy Warhol to Claus Oldenburg / Coosje van Bruggen, while his slightly sinister sense of humor and use of fragmented, confessional text are reminiscent of artists like Richard Prince and Christopher Wool. Employing a variety of jokes, doodles, political slogans, proclamations, comic-book characters, angry rants, and teary-eyed journal entries, the artist takes aim at everyone from himself to past girlfriends to the American mentality towards war.

In his book *The Pleasure of the Text*, Roland Barthes wrote, ‘I am interested in text because it wounds and seduces me.’ Barthes’s words resonate when encountering Scoggins’ work; through the voyeuristic and pleasurable nature of reading, as a viewer one is seduced by the sincerity of the text and at the same time wounded by the underlying sadness in many of his letters. Scoggins’ drawings deal with childhood loss but the works also display an agony over the *loss of childhood*. The question arises: do we ever really lose ourselves? Are we different people when we ‘grow up?’ Our desires and fears may remain the same; we only learn to articulate them differently. – Brantley Johnson, *Drain*

Michael Scoggins’ work has been included in a variety of exhibitions in Paris, Vienna, Brooklyn, Miami and Boston. He holds a MFA from the Savannah College of Art and Design in Georgia and a BA in both Political Science and Studio Art from Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, VA. In addition, he studied at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, where he received a fellowship and his work was recently acquired by the Museum of Modern Art.

*In the project space*: London-based **Kieron Dennis** will be exhibiting recent videos, which are composed primarily of still photographic images and flashes of text. Taking images that correspond to his everyday activities and experiences the artist activates the commonplace by generating a sense of the marvelous.

For more information, please visit the gallery’s website or contact C. Sean Horton (Director) at 212-989-8700 or [sean@freightandvolume.com](mailto:sean@freightandvolume.com).