

# stephen dean

Exhibition from March 18 to April 22, 2006  
Opening on Saturday March 18

Stephen Dean's 5th solo show at Galerie Xippas is featuring a new video: *Grand Prix* and a series of recent works on paper titled *Target*.

*Grand Prix*, was filmed in the North-East of the United States during a « demolition derby » championship. Contrary to usual car races where spectators fear for the eventual destruction of a car, in these tournaments the winner is the last one to move. There is no racetrack and the only goal is to terminate motion. All the cars are painted in bright hues and customized with various graffiti for this celebration of the accident. "Grand Prix" follows an illogical progression towards chaos as well as the human desire for destruction. Steel is torn apart and shredded, tires explode, motors catch on fire. Both threatening and flamboyant this ritual is filmed as a sculpture in the process of destruction.

Whether works on paper or paper works, *Target* is a series of « paintings » that begun simultaneously with the filming of *Grand Prix*. Fascinated by the geometry and the purpose of dart boards, the same way that he has been by abacuses or crosswords, Stephen Dean noticed that their structure - made of a tightly coiled roll of paper upon which colors and numbers are applied - was modifiable. By loosening the roll of paper, sometimes up to 300 feet long, Dean dislocates the order of colors and the stability of the bull's eye. As numbers turn to smoke, the initial motifs are whirled around to tamper with the spectator's pupils. *Target* converge souvenirs and references such as Picabia, Vasarely or Ucello, as well as Tex Avery cartoons.

With the same gesture that manipulates a dart board and transforms it into a vortex, Stephen Dean stares at cars rushing towards destruction to become amorphous carcasses of color and matter.

Stephen Dean was born in Paris in 1968. He lives and works in New York.

Forthcoming shows include Site Santa-Fe: *Still points of the turning world*, curated by Klaus Ottman (July 7 to December 9, 2006). The Miami Art Museum is holding a solo presentation of his videos from June 13 to August 13, 2006.

Stephen Dean's work was included in the 51st Venice Biennial by Rosa Martinez, the Sevilla Biennial in 2004 by Harald Szeemann, the Istanbul Biennial in 2003 by Dan Cameron and the Whitney Biennial in 2002, by Larry Rinders. His films have received numerous prizes in festivals around the world. In 2004 he was awarded the Franco-Spanish Prix Altadis.