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Max Cole: *Paintings from the Autumn...*

March 1 – April 7, 2007

Opening Reception: First Thursday, March 1, 2007, 5:30 – 7:30 pm

SAN FRANCISCO – Haines Gallery is pleased to announce a new exhibition of paintings by Max Cole. The paintings in the exhibition vary from small to mid-size, exclusively utilizing her choice palette of black, white and subtle shades of grey. Cole's formal vocabulary, refined over a period of more than three decades, embodies an attempt to reduce painting to its bare essentials. Cole's insistent horizontal stripes, the most immediately striking element of her work, refer not only to landscape—that most stabilizing component of human perceptual experience—but also the wave forms which we associate with the transmission of energy.

In her paintings, Cole perseveres to create a close knit series of works that although evoking the same feeling, each retains an individual personality. Using rational thought as well as intuition, she ritualistically manifests horizontal configurations comprised of miniscule vertical, hatch mark gestures. These “banded paintings” give a sense of expanding space, their horizontals opening beyond the confines of the canvas. The internal space becomes more introverted, with each mark recording the intense focus required to create each gesticulation. The linear configurations interact with light to create visual vibrations and irregularities.

Born in Kansas in 1937, Cole began exhibiting her work in the early 1960s. Her work is represented in such prestigious collections as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Los Angeles County Museum of Art, California; Dallas Museum of Art, Texas; the Panza di Biumo Collection, Varese, Italy; and the Museums of Moderner Kunst in Otterndorf, Wuppertal, Ingolstadt, Cologne, and Munich, Germany. Cole has also received several prestigious grants and fellowships, including the Visual Artist's Fellowship and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. In 2005, Cole was an Artist in Residence at the Albers Foundation in Bethany, Connecticut.

Haines Galley has produced a catalogue on the occasion of this exhibition. The catalogue includes an interview with Max Cole by Maddalena Magni, Laura Mattioli Rossi and Emanuela Poletti. Translation and transcription by Ludovica Pellegatta.

Images available upon request. For more information please visit www.hainessgallery.com.