

LENNON, WEINBERG, INC.

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Laura Larson

Complimentary

May 17 – June 22, 2002
Tuesday-Saturday 10-6

Laura Larson has made several related series of photographs since 1996. She has taken as her subject domestic environments which are not actual, inhabited spaces but constructed or idealized versions of the domestic. In “Domestic Interiors”, a series devoted to dollhouses, her diminutive images show rooms lifelike enough to complicate the perception of scale. “My Dark Places,” her equally small images of miniature rooms furnished as true-crime scenes, show blood spatter, discarded weapons and overturned chairs, clues, evidence, and, yes, the deceased. For “Well-Appointed”, Larson made larger black and white photographs of preserved historic homes and museum period rooms which not only reflect upon wealth, class and taste, but upon conventional norms which furnish the fictions of these uninhabited rooms.

Larson’s current works are medium and large-format color photographs of hotel rooms from which the guests have just departed. Working with the cooperation of selected hotels in Miami, New York, Boston, Chicago, New Orleans and Los Angeles, she gained access to the “dirty rooms” and photographed them. The utilitarian arrangements of hotel rooms have been left in disarray by anonymous inhabitants leaving behind a residue of their temporary occupation. Certain typologies are apparent. Despite distinctions of style, these rooms feature standard arrangements of bed, headboard, sidetable, lamp, chair, television, and the unmade beds become the central features of the dirty rooms, the record of their use. The rooms are all the same, the occupants interchangeable, but room and guest are also unique and their stories intriguingly elusive.

Laura Larson (b. 1965) received an MFA at Rutgers in 1993 and took part in the Whitney Independent Study Program. Her most recent one-person exhibition in New York was in 1999 at Linda Kirkland Gallery; her work was included in group shows at White Columns, Art in General, the Bronx Museum, Rotunda Gallery, Four Walls and the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston. This is her first solo exhibition at Lennon, Weinberg.