

Effluxes, Effluence, Effulgence & Effluviums

Studio 18 Gallery

April 22 – May 20, 2006

Efflux – effluxes: something that emanates in or as if in a stream; the action or process of flowing or seeming to flow; an emanation given off by external objects and to be the cause of our perception of them.

Effluence – the action or process of flowing out (as from a person or substance): emanation, efflux.

Effulgence – strong radiant light; a glorious splendor; brilliance.

Effluvium – effluvia, effluvia: something especially subtle and invisible that flows out or issues forth; a hypothetical imponderable formerly believed to be manifest as an efflux from electrified bodies and magnets and to be responsible for their powers of attraction and repulsion; an exhalation or smell especially when unpleasant; a by-product usually in the form of waste.

Effluxes & Effluviums is comprised of visual events on the walls and floor orchestrated as a circumstance for sublimity, awe, delight, pleasure and reckoning. Materials are imbued with forces that flow out with effects that are highly positive and also negative. I am profoundly engaged by materials and objects that are produced for a wide variety of markets and purposes – from color radiant optical film that has industrial, architectural and decorative application to products, especially toys, found in the dollar store to appropriated and reassigned materials like product packaging that becomes raw material for a rewritten aesthetic experience.

In particular, I have used radiant film to make colored light events to delight and edify, and to speak to the that pure dimension of being human in the world as if, in the world of complete union. In multiples of six, a wide variety of elements serve to embody and extend the dialogue I am having with the six-pointed star, a geometric form that serves a sacred role in Judaism and Islam. Six rigid plastic forms used in packaging to present and protect chocolate hearts can also be arranged within the structure of the six-sided figure. And so too, can quotidian objects, like plastic toy guns, be arranged to construct the six-pointed star.

All the images are made in honor of the positive side of flowing out/forth and of emanation; they are given as effluxes, effluence and effulgence. But only up to a certain point can some of the images be received and remain as such. . Even guns can seem beautiful when we don't first perceive them as such, that is, if they are only lines, shape and pattern in a geometric form. But then, as the image comes into view for what it is – and what it is made of becomes apparent - perhaps the contrast and the contradiction

cause us to repel from the image while being attracted to it – a bit of nausea might come on. We must then reflect on and reckon with the world as it is; as we have made it; and as we allow it to be. We make guns, and toy ones at that for our children, and there is a huge market for them, and they are a globally produced and sold object, made even more accessible via the dollar store market. We don't even realize after awhile what can be used to change something magnificent into something terrible. Then the dark side is revealed: effluvia is flowing out, something repellent and harmful, odious and onerous.

Judaism and Islam share a powerfully imbued form, the six-pointed star, but without vision, its positive meaning, power and purpose can be – and has been - misused and even lost at many significant moments in a very long history. If we cannot honor positive purpose, then what are we; what has become of us; and what will become of us. The plastic toy gun is a penultimate example of the conundrum engulfing the entire global community. Are we prepared to make the choices, sacrifices and compromises required to encourage love. Can we arrive at a way of being as a global culture that allows the pleasure we receive from spectacles of colored light to be more than a fleeting moment in the midst of darkness? Can the world as if and the world as is move closer together. I say yes, yes, yes, yes, yes.

