

Susan Hobbs

Ian Carr-Harris
19 March to 2 May 2009



Ian Carr-Harris: *Paradigm Series: 'eglise' [figure]*, 2009, painted wood, wood, plexiglass, books, support tables, variable dimensions

Concerning the works that comprise his *Paradigm* series, Ian Carr-Harris has remarked, “We move through language as we move through space, through a building, for instance. Both language and architecture are institutional frameworks.” In his ninth solo exhibition at the gallery, Carr-Harris will present two works – one new, one never shown before – that confront this relationship. Historically speaking, just as conceptual art is inclined towards didacticism, the works seemingly take a literal approach to this reading, and then belie this assumption through their deconstruction of the instructive.

Following his hermetic replicas of The Power Plant, The Art Gallery of Ontario, and the Tate Modern, Carr-Harris’ newest sculpture continues in this series of architectural model/peep-show works, but with a twist. On view in the main gallery, *figure* is a physical framework not yet realized, displayed here as a do-it-yourself kit.

Upstairs Carr-Harris will show *Ten verbs/Ten commandments* – a suite of blackboards, each with a single verb in schoolhouse script – continuing his interest in the simultaneous act of assumption in both language and stricture. Words such as “worship” and “covet” obliquely reference their biblical sources, but here the moral code is broken down by their permissive instruction.

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