



sarah bowen gallery
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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Meredith Allen — *Forever*

April 1, 2005 — May 1, 2005

Reception: Friday, April 1, 2005
7 – 9 P.M.

sarah bowen gallery presents “Forever”, an exhibition of new work by MEREDITH ALLEN.

In *Forever*, a series of photographs portrays the artist’s mother’s loving yet obsessive collection of beanie babies preserved in found plastic packing materials as well as clear Ziploc bags. The photographs are at first glimpse personable; however the literal and somewhat amusing presentation of beanie babies enclosed in plastic bags becomes more unnerving upon examining the logical yet perverse nature of encapsulation as a cherished act of preservation.

My photography depicts the ever-changing landscape of the world around me. I look for opportunities to introduce a new context to my surroundings. Through this exploration, I aim to incite the subtle tension between nature and culture, innocence and cynicism and the beautiful and grotesque.

– Meredith Allen

There’s a struggle of wills that fuel Ms. Allen’s work—almost a fight between sticking it in our face and allowing us to lay down on pillows, propped up on one elbow, to slowly ponder our next thought. It will be interesting to see if this refreshing dynamic propels Allen’s inquiry in the future, or if given the recent tragedy in our city, her playful, tempered jabs at popular culture acquire a different voice.

– Carol Schwarzman, critic and editor of wburg.com
wburl 2001 Fall Review

Allen’s new work examines the theme of security of the personal in contention with security of the homeland. In *Forever*, Allen explores this theme by using the US Government’s Homeland Security color-coded chart of terror as a background for the soft plushy collectible toys. Moreover, as recent global events repeatedly remind us of human fragility, Allen’s work contemplates the mundane acts we obliquely create to cope with a variety of personal and global issues.

Meredith Allen lives and works in New York City. Her photographs have been shown in many group exhibitions, including Copia: The American Center for Wine, Food and the Arts, Hallwalls, The Rotunda Gallery, and the traveling exhibition “Comic Release!: Negotiating Identity for a New Generation”. Her solo exhibitions include The Gracie Mansion Gallery, g-Module, and the Byron Cohen Gallery in Kansas City. In 2004 Allen was awarded a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship in Photography. Her photographs are included in the collections of The Harvard University School of Business, The Brooklyn Museum, The New York Public Library, as well as many private collections.

sarah bowen gallery is open Tuesday through Sunday, 12 – 6 pm and by appointment. The gallery is located at 210 North Sixth Street, Williamsburg, Brooklyn, NY, 11211. Directions: L Train to Bedford Avenue stop, take Driggs exit, walk one block south to Sixth Street, and then ½ block East. The gallery is located between Driggs and Roebling on the right hand side.