

LIGHT & WIRE

ALWAYS IMMEDIATELY RELEASING
March 1 - 31, 2009

Heather Rasmussen
ship happens
<http://lightandwiregallery.com>

Light & Wire Gallery is pleased to present a solo project by Los Angeles artist Heather Rasmussen.

For the show, *ship happens*, Rasmussen presents a series of photography, drawing and sculpture. This body is a continuation of Rasmussen's earlier photographic and sculptural works, *TransportTransform*, based on storage and freight of containers in The Port of Los Angeles. Located in Long Beach, California, this site was familiar, yet seen only in passing by Rasmussen, who grew up nearby.

For this body of work, found images of wrecked shipping containers, called "Casualties," in various locations, were collected from the Internet, (and catalogued, as part of her ongoing archive.) Rasmussen staged studio photos of sculptural replicas, fashioned from card stock, mimicking mangled steel in the series *DestructConstruct*. Each piece is named after a specific event where containers were damaged and the record was made publicly accessible. These images are then edited, removing the landscape context of the floating or crushed containers, and are then transferred to drawings. The minimal, white background accentuates the colorful shapes as abstracted, formal objects. The new models are made to be photographed. First, drawings are made of these isolated images. Then, models are made to be photographed. The photographs then become autonomous pieces. Each wreck thus becomes three works: sculpture, photograph, and drawing; though only a selection is represented in this exhibition.

Through charts, collection and re-enactment, Rasmussen focuses on standardized signifiers for the organization and movement of consumer commodity, and the way in which we make sense of the objects of everyday culture, assuming the inherent potential for mistake and destruction. She translates from the massive to miniature in a poetic manner; the resulting minimal pieces are beautiful renderings of a process: taking an idea apart and putting it back together in another way.