



BRENDAN THREADGILL
FEBRUARY 1 – 28, 2009

Light & Wire Gallery is pleased to present a solo exhibition by Los Angeles-based artist Brendan Threadgill. For his exhibit, Threadgill will present two music mixes, one video, and seven drawings.

Central to Threadgill's work is the collapsing of disparate histories and events and the examination of what the artist calls the "military-meditative complex." In the three projects selected for this exhibition, Threadgill pulls from lived experience, ancient history, and global popular culture, recombining histories of architecture, religion, strife, and introspection.

The two music mixes are a continuation of Threadgill's interest in global popular music and how it can succinctly embody radical shifts in culture, commerce, and political power. The first, *Lo-Fi Strife WorldWide #2*, is comprised of songs in Arabic, Uzbek, and Chechen among others, while the second, *Slavic Mega Mix 2004-2007*, is comprised of songs collected by the artist while living in the former Soviet Union.

Gyuto Air Raid (Bunker Hill) is a sketch for a sculpture that combines a traditional sitting Buddha statue with an American civil defense siren. The droning air raid alert tone has been combined with the uncannily similar chanting of the Gyuto sect of Tibetan Buddhism. Caught between introspective ecstasy and overpowering terror, the sculpture and sound piece speak to the unique cultural environment of Southern California, with its abundance of alternative religions and massive defense industries thriving side-by-side and at times overlapping.

The drawings chosen for the exhibition use schematics of 19th century glass and iron greenhouses and 16th century European fortified cities. Utilizing the schematics of two forms of Western engineering, one for defense and the other for recreation, the structures of the buildings are reformed in two dimensions, simultaneously flattening and expanding their form. Arranged geometrically according to the edges of the page, these schematics repeat and overlay, creating patterns that point to religious and spiritualist iconography, from Tibetan mandalas and Medieval rose windows to contemporary crop circles.

Brendan Threadgill is an artist and writer currently living in Los Angeles. He received an MFA from California Institute of the Arts in 2007 and was a Fulbright Scholar to Ukraine in 2004-2005. Recent exhibitions have included projects at The Suburban in Chicago, Photo Epicenter in San Francisco, and LAXART in Culver City, California.