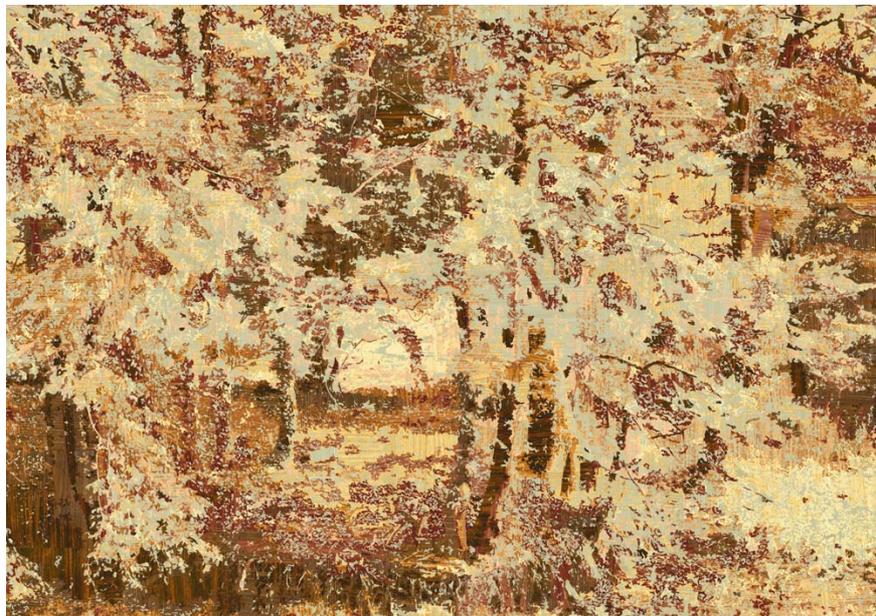




GARY CARSLY „Making the third cup of tea from one tea bag“

22 January - 24 March 2005



Schloss Augustusburg, Brühl 2004, C-print

In his first Cologne exhibition the Dutch/Australian artist Gary Carsley shows large parkscapes, so called *Draguerreotypes* -photographs that have no negative- which, upon closer inspection, can be identified as works of complex intarsia. Each colour, every form is made up of the different composited timbers of various wooden veneer floor pieces. In these works the patterned ornamental structure of the wood as well as the identification of the landscape motif coincide as visual incidents of equal importance.

Several 19th-century park motifs are juxtaposed in this project: Stowe Landscape Gardens Buckinghamshire - Botanical Gardens in Leiden - Central Park New York - Prospect Park Brooklyn - The Royal Botanical Gardens Melbourne - Chinese Garden Singapore - The Hanging Gardens Bombay - Baroque Garden Schloss Augustusburg Brühl - Industrial Park Duisburg - Villa Hügel Essen.

Designed as a «second nature», parks are enclosed designed spaces that reproduce a deliberate and occasionally unnatural coexistence of «curated» vegetation. Flora and fauna was imported so as to «correct» the inadequate existing landscape according to an ideal model.

Large panels are made up of wooden segments, to which the photographic reproductions of other wood surfaces are applied. In his *Draguerreotypes* Carsley dissolves the views of parks with the images of woods and thereby develops a complex network of overlapping cultural and media references. Carsley reflects upon the cultural transfer between the Old and the New World and articulates a frequently fractured perspective upon nature and the many pictorial qualities that have been projected into it. The intarsia can be read as a complex piece of impressively detailed woodworking that in reality only exists as a representation in the photograph, not as an object of its own right.