

GRIFFIN

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PETER WEGNER: *THE UNITED STATES OF NOTHING*

March 31 – May 26, 2007

Opening Reception: Saturday, March 31st from 7 to 9 pm

GRIFFIN is pleased to announce an exhibition of new work by Peter Wegner and the publication of *P,E,T,E,R,W,E,G,N,E,R*, a survey of the artist's work from the last ten years.

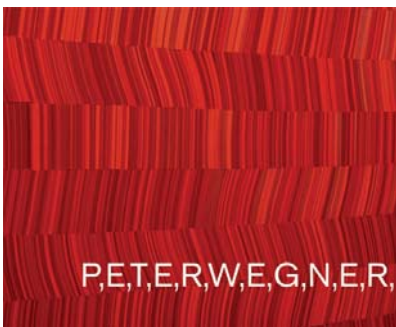
The exhibition's centerpiece, *THE UNITED STATES OF NOTHING*, is a vast field of darkness punctuated here and there by real American placenames like "Nix," "Nada," and "Nameless." Rendered in white neon and installed on a single blue painted wall, the eighteen placenames and their exact geographical coordinates will be strewn across 400 square feet of the main gallery. Wegner's vision of America is both disconsolate and deadpan, its darkness leavened by the absurdity of names conjured out of nothing. As Wegner notes of this body of work, "The naming of a town is a strange thing indeed. It's born of myth, odd circumstance, dire necessity."



Peter Wegner
From *WALLS*, 2007
Portfolio of 6 photographs on archival paper
12 x 15 inches each

In the west gallery, Wegner will exhibit three new portfolios of photographs: *WINDOWS*, *WALLS*, and *WORDS*. Each portfolio both insists on its stated theme and calls it into question. Windows might resemble mirrors or walls; walls are seen to be haphazard and contingent; words appear on both, as well as locations as diverse as a luggage cart, a back door, or a half-finished crossword puzzle abandoned in the grass.

Rendered in different shades of red, *DOUBLE STANDARD* – a neon work that concerns two American places sharing the same name ("Standard") – will be exhibited in the project room. In this piece, Wegner locates an identity crisis in progress – on the map, in the world, and attached to the wall of the gallery. It offers an implicit critique of American politics, the art world, or the nature of language itself. *DOUBLE STANDARD* also calls to mind both the "Standard" gas station paintings of Ed Ruscha and Marcel Duchamp's seminal work of conceptualism, *Three Standard Stoppages*.



P,E,T,E,R,W,E,G,N,E,R,
Hardcover
150 pages

Wegner grew up in South Dakota, attended Yale University, and now lives in Brooklyn. His work is included in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; and the Yale University Art Gallery, where it is currently on display in the newly renovated Louis Kahn building. Forthcoming projects include a solo exhibition at Akira Ikeda Gallery / Berlin this summer and a major wallwork project at the Dunedin Public Art Gallery in New Zealand this fall.

GRIFFIN is also pleased to announce the publication of *P,ET,E,R,W,EG,N,E,R*, a 150-page survey of Wegner's work of the last ten years. Essayists include Whitney Museum curator Henriette Huldish, Bard historian Noah Chasin, Wittgenstein scholar John Koethe, and *New York Times* best-selling author Michael Pollan.