ANTHONY REYNOLDS GALLERY

60 Great Marlborough Street
London
W1F 7BG

Telephone +44 20 7 439 2201
Fax +44 20 7 439 1869
Email info@anthonyreynolds.com

PRESS RELEASE

Black Hole 1997-2006

AMIKAM TOREN RECEIVED WISDOM

21 APRIL – 20 MAY 2006

Nine years of oranges. Each *rococo* curl of peel discarded into the same, grey bin bag. It's a fantastic object but could hardly be more mundane in origin. Toren shows us how the material transformation or destruction of an object opens it up to enormous expressive and symbolic potential. The title, *Black Hole*, multiplies the meaning of the work with its reference to energy, consumption and absence.

Pathetic substitute for a painting, a banal, bad landscape or turgid portrait or deadest of dead still lives is mutilated, a found text cut out of the canvas. From this act of sabotage, beauty is born: a bad painting becomes a good painting, a precious sculptural object, a miraculous correspondence of verbal and visual language. In a blissful reverse of Rauschenberg's erased de Kooning, where the value of the final work depended upon the value of the original, it is the intrinsic worthlessness of the found painting that holds the potential for sacrificial redemption in Toren's work.

A student's lecture chair, seat of learning; the thin wooden work surface a support for the notation of information and thought. And there it is, layer upon layer, extended up and up like Brancusi's never-ending column; a tower of *Received Wisdom*. As a sculptural object it is a spectacular achievement - again Toren fabricates an extraordinary form out of the material of a mundane object; but it is so much more than this: a perfect, symbiotic relationship between form and content, between the uneducated and the enlightened, the power of knowledge and its vulnerability, the rough and the smooth, the totally uninspired and the brilliance of imagination.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND IMAGES PLEASE CONTACT MARIA STATHI AT THE GALLERY
EMAIL: MARIA@ANTHONYREYNOLDS.COM TEL +44 20 7439 2201 FAX +44 20 7 439 1869