

NEW YORK

DANIEL DAVIDSON at Sloan Fine Art



Daniel Davidson, *Mirror (Diane Arbus Twins)*, 2009

Previously one half of the dynamic painting duo Beattie & Davidson, Daniel Davidson has been making work as a solo artist since 1998. In addition to his considerable output as a painter, his most ingenious work so far was his performance-based sculpture *Picture Booth* (2006), in which Davidson sketched portraits for sitters while hidden behind a screen in a cardboard recreation of a photo booth, complete with lights, a curtain and a soundtrack. Created with help from ADA Gallery in Richmond, Virginia, where it was shown in 2006, it also made appearances at the 2006 Scope art fair in Miami and at 3rd Ward in Brooklyn in 2007.

For Davidson's exhibition at Sloan Fine Art, "Double Stuff," titled after the Oreo cookie with twice the amount of cream filling, 32 framed drawings are hung symmetrically on a single wall. His method places them apart from any other well-rendered graphite works. Drawing one half of the image with watercolor pencil on paper and then spraying it with water, Davidson folds the paper and buffs it, creating an identical copy on the opposite side. Having mastered this technique, he creates a seamless duplicate that doesn't involve touch-ups or further manipulation. Using photographic references and several pop culture icons, such as Kermit the Frog and the TIE fighters from *Star Wars*, the work has a broad appeal. His art historical works are particularly strong, including *Mirror (Diane Arbus Twins)* (2009), which is based on the famously creepy photograph, but in this case the girls are truly identical, adding more food for thought.

—Chris Bors