

## ART GALLERY NEWS RELEASE

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**Tufts University Art Gallery**

at the Aidekman Arts Center

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### **Christian Tomaszewski: *Hunting for Pheasants***

January 22–March 29, 2009

Public Opening Reception: Thursday, January 29, 5:30-8:30pm (the artist will be present)

**MEDFORD, MA** – The Tufts University Art Gallery proudly presents *Hunting for Pheasants*, an installation by Polish-born New York-based artist Christian Tomaszewski, on view in the Remis Sculpture Court and Koppelman Gallery from January 22 to March 29, 2009.

What began as a selection of movie posters for non-existent movies inspired by the Polish Poster School of the 1960s and 1970s has developed into an immersive installation of approximately 60 posters—painted with tempera on paper, some with elements of collage, drawing and stained glass—and one video representing people who were assassinated. Some of the subjects exist vividly in our collective memory and some are more obscure. The posters are installed over a colorful array of striped panels on the perimeter walls whose bright tones belie the dark humor and disorienting experience of the installation. The artist has designed a snaking maze through the center of the Gallery, forcing viewers to negotiate the space in a non-linear and unprescribed way. The combination of stripes, posters, and maze is a “game of colors, shapes, and design” that the artist plays with the viewer.



*Installation Photo, Hunting For Pheasants*  
courtesy of Galerie Michael Wiesehöfer  
Cologne, October 2008

This non-linear narrative structure is inspired by the artist’s interest in films and builds on a previous project in which he rebuilt the spaces, props, and concepts of David Lynch’s *Blue Velvet* as art installations. The artist does not simply seek a “clear-cut recipe for how to translate filmic space into an art installation,” rather he uses the narrative potential of space by disorienting the viewer much in the way that Lynch does as a film director. Some posters in *Hunting for Pheasants* use films such as *Natural Born Killers* and the James Bond series as settings for the story of the assassinated person. The installation’s title *Hunting for Pheasants* invokes a sporting analogy that compares politically-motivated assassinations to the act of hunting a hauntingly beautiful and prized bird; it also draws a simple visual comparison between the installation’s bright stripes and the bird’s colorful feathers.

The walls and windows of the Remis Sculpture Court will be covered in colorful stripes, visual cues to connect the viewer to the core of the installation in the Koppelman Gallery. A lack of signage and a very specific lighting scheme in Koppelman are part of the artist’s intent to create an encompassing experience.

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The **Tufts University Art Gallery** animates the intellectual life of the greater university community through exhibitions and programs exploring new, global perspectives on art and on art discourse. The Gallery is located in the **Aidekman Arts Center** on Tufts University’s **Medford** campus. The Gallery is fully accessible and admission is free. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Sunday, 11:00am to 5:00p.m; Thursdays until 8:00pm. **Free** daytime visitor parking is available in the two parking lots off Lower Campus Road. Parking passes must be obtained at the front desk of the Tisch Gallery and displayed on your dashboard. Free event parking is available without a pass in the lot behind the Aidekman Arts Center, off Lower Campus Road. Call **617-627-3518** for more information or visit [www.ase.tufts.edu/gallery](http://www.ase.tufts.edu/gallery).