**NICHOLAS KAHN AND RICHARD SELESNICK**

*Mars: Adrift on the Hourglass Sea*

September 8 – October 23, 2010
Opening reception Friday, September 10, 5:30 – 7:30

“Terror is in all cases the ruling principal of the sublime” — Edmund Burke, 1756

Carroll and Sons is pleased to announce the opening of Mars: Adrift on the Hourglass Sea, an exhibition of new photographs, paintings and objects by the collaborative team Nicholas Kahn and Richard Selesnick.

In their first project with the gallery, Kahn and Selesnick explore issues of ecological and societal collapse, and examine contemporary myths about technology, colonization and growth. The project challenges our assumptions about the distinctions made between utopia and dystopia, Eden and apocalypse. Set within a Martian landscape, the artists explore the role that gender plays within these concepts and ask the question “what constitutes a sublime landscape in the 21st century?”

*Mars: Adrift on the Hourglass Sea* is Kahn and Selesnick’s first project to feature a female protagonist; a woman finds herself alone in a wasteland that appears to be Mars. It is uncertain how she arrived in this place, via spacecraft, through a fold in the space-time continuum or perhaps the landscape is a mental projection. Either way, it is clear that she has escaped an unnamed catastrophe on Earth. In a series of hallucinatory episodes she simultaneously explores the planet and builds a mock-life for herself from a combination of high-tech and stone-age materials. Mars is revealed to have ruined artifacts and monuments from a previous, or perhaps future, civilization. The remains of massive stone listening devices are littered about the landscape, leading us to wonder: is this a colony that has collapsed and lost touch with earth? How did its occupants become stranded? Or are these the nocturnal imaginings of a post-apocalyptic survivor?

The exhibition includes the artists’ signature large-scale panoramic photographs as well 24” and 12” format photographs, painting and large and small-scale “Martian” sculptural objects. The sculptural objects,
cast in concrete, lead and tin, take the form of boats, many populated with totemic figures and crystallized growths. The photographs are painstakingly constructed from actual photo-mosaics of Mars taken by the NASA space rovers Spirit and Opportunity and desert landscapes in Nevada and Utah photographed by the artists. The images are at once recognizable and unapologetically romantic.

The artists Nicholas Kahn and Richard Selesnick have been collaborating for more than twenty years on projects including Scotlandfuturebog, 2000; City of Salt, 2001; and Apollo Prophesies, 2004, all published in subsequent books by Aperture Press. Work by Kahn and Selesnick is held in the collections of the Addison Gallery of American Art, Brooklyn Museum of Art, Fogg Art Museum, Houston Museum of Fine Arts, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the National Portrait Gallery, and the Philadelphia Museum of Art. In 2006, they were the recipients of a NASA commission to create work about Mars that was subsequently exhibited at the Smithsonian Museum of American Art.
Installation view of Serpent Seed and Crystal Barque

Installation view of Tin Mothers
Elysium Planitia, 2010
Archival Digital Print
24 x 24”
Edition of 5
Memento Mori, 2010
Archival Digital Print
24 x 24"
Edition of 5
Abandoned Oxygen Field, 2010
Archival Digital Print
10 x 72”
Edition of 5

History of the Hourglass Sea, 2010
Oil on panel
Seven panels 12 x 12”, total size 12 x 84”

Et in Arcadia Ego 1, 2010
Archival Digital Print
10 x 72”
Edition of 5

Et in Arcadia Ego 2, 2010
Archival Digital Print
10 x 72”
Edition of 10
Stone Barques, 2010
Cast concrete
75 x 70 x 168”

Canali, 2010
Archival Digital Print
10 x 10”
Edition of 5

Distant Balloon, 2010
Archival Digital Print
10 x 10”
Edition of 5
Glider, 2007
Archival Digital Print
10 x 72"
Edition of 10

Earthrise, 2010
Archival Digital Print
10 x 10"
Edition of 5

Constellation Matrix, 2010
Archival Digital Print
10 x 10"
Edition of 5

Petrified Ships, 2010
Archival Digital Print
10 x 72"
Edition of 5
Concrete Ear (4), 2010
Archival Digital Print
24 x 24"
Edition of 5
The Blue Scorpion, 2010
Archival Digital Print
24 x 24"
Edition of 5
Concrete Ear (4), 2010
Archival Digital Print
24 x 24"
Edition of 5
Concrete Ear (5), 2010
Archival Digital Print
24 x 24"
Edition of 5
Concrete Ear (2), 2010
Archival Digital Print
24 x 24"
Edition of 5
Crystal Barque, 2010
Cave calcite and cast concrete
20 x 18 x 70”

Serpent Seed, 2010
Cave calcite, cast tin and cast concrete
26 x 20 x 20”

Tin Mothers, 2010
Cast lead and tin
Dimensions vary
Janus Symbiosis, 2010
Archival Digital Print
10 x 10”
Edition of 5

Journey to Erebus Mons, 2010
Archival Digital Print
10 x 10”
Edition of 5

Mother Squid, 2010
Archival Digital Print
10 x 72”
Edition of 5

Approaching Pavonis Mons by Balloon, 2010
Archival Digital Print
10 x 72”
Edition of 5
Cave, 2010
Archival Digital Print
24 x 24"
Edition of 5
Cistern, 2010
Archival Digital Print
24 x 24"
Edition of 5
Flying Castle, 2010
Archival Digital Print
24 x 24”
Edition of 5
Oracle, 2010
Archival Digital Print
24 x 24”
Edition of 5
Floating Factory, 2010
Archival Digital Print
24 x 24"
Edition of 5