

**TOPOS Bastienne Schmidt**

**CONSTRUCTS Craig Kane**

May 21 – June 26, 2011  
Reception: Saturday, May 21 5-7 PM

at

**art sites**

651 W. Main Street, Riverhead, NY 11901 T [631 591 2401](tel:6315912401)

Hours: Thursday – Sunday 12 – 5 PM [www.artsitesgallery.com](http://www.artsitesgallery.com) or by appointment



In TOPOS (from the Greek *place*) Bastienne Schmidt displays her paintings inspired by aerial views of human infrastructure and the earth's surface. Created over the past two years, the works explore the idea of place in a topographical manner, using abstracted contour lines, which trace the undulating landscape with interventions reflective of human habitation. This body of work is on canvas, but the real carrier of the work are layers of thin tracing paper, that create an underpinning and subtle context, allowing the viewer to see in 'depth'. The process involves building 5- 6 layers of newspaper, fabrics, tracing paper, ink pens, dental floss, string, and drip paint. All of these layers create a tangible and tactile surface.

Bastienne Schmidt is a German born and New York based fine art photographer and multi-media artist, also deeply influenced by her residencies in Greece and Italy, . Her art work is included in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the International Center of Photography, The Brooklyn Museum, The Victoria and Albert Museum in London , the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris among others. In 1996 she had a one person exhibit at the International Center of Photography in New York with her project "Vivir la Muerte". In 1998 she won the George Soros Grant from the "Project on Death in America". Published books include Vivir la Muerte, American Dreams, Shadow Home, which was awarded The Best Photo Book Prize in Germany, and more recently Home Stills.

In CONSTRUCTS Craig Kane invades the gallery with his portable studio packed into a couple of suitcases, as he creates miniature site installations combining wit, verbal interjections and thought-provoking jabs at life. While mining his personal history for inspiration, the result resonates for all. He engages the viewer through the initial discovery of slyly placed art, then the whole, as shadows and references deepen understanding. Craig Kane graduated with a MFA from Purchase College and a BA from U.C. Berkeley. He has shown with *art sites* previously, as well as in galleries in San Diego, Beijing, and Brooklyn.