

# ARTslant

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## san francisco

### Devastations and Behaviors

#### *East/West*

Gallery Paule Anglim

14 Geary St., San Francisco, CA 94108

April 2, 2008 - April 26, 2008

Pamela Wilson-Ryckman has an urge to reconcile order and beauty with the daily onslaught of disasters we casually accept. Her show *East/West* at Gallery Paule Anglim displays large-scale tragedies amongst different social communities. Flooded villages. Accidents at intersections. Skeletons of demolished buildings. Natural disasters contrasting manmade chaos and the issues of responsibilities and politics. For example: when a tsunami barrels through an Asian village, who's responsible for a swift rescue and response? What are the politics when foreign or developing or (dare I mention our own homeland) African-American communities are demolished?



What Wilson-Ryckman's work also ponders is the quiet devastation that follows grand natural disasters. The disasters rip through and wipe out whole communities so fast, that they quickly become vacant, hushed, peopleless places. On the contrary, car accidents in the metropolitan worlds bring together dense masses of onlookers, yet, nobody does anything to help. Collective behavior of non-action. Each individual passing through the crowded city streets, each tied to their separate silence, congregating at the car like bugs around a crumb. In the background of these series, there are even more hordes of people, passing by, unaffected by the chaos, impervious to it - perhaps the way we are to the nightly news. Our reactions diffused, our human experiences distorted by television.



Using delicate and diffused watercolors, Wilson-Ryckman's vaporous figures linger at the scene of demolition like shadow imprints left at Hiroshima. Her execution of perspective and perfection of the line bring order, fluidity and method to these otherwise chaotic scenes. Where the crowds don't gather, an assembly of destroyed buildings and uprooted homes meet. In the global community: the landscapes are exhausted.

--Jolene Torr

(\*Images, from top to bottom: Pamela Wilson-Ryckman, *East/West*, April 2 - 26, 2008; Gallery Paule Anglim, *Untitled #1*, 2007, watercolor on paper, 21 x 30", courtesy of Gallery Paule Anglim, San Francisco. Pamela Wilson-Ryckman, *East/West*, April 2 - 26, 2008; Gallery Paule Anglim, *Corner (left)*, 2007, watercolor on paper, 22 1/2 x 27 1/2", courtesy of Gallery Paule Anglim, San Francisco. Pamela Wilson-Ryckman, *East/West*, April 2 - 26, 2008; Gallery Paule Anglim, *What Do We Do Now?*, 2008, oil on linen, 56 x 72", courtesy of Gallery Paule Anglim, San Francisco.)

Posted by [Jolene Torr](#) on 4/10