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Contact: Sarah Hymes, mail@margoleavingallery.com

William Leavitt: Molecules and Buildings

at Margo Leavin Gallery

21 March – 18 April 2009

Margo Leavin Gallery is pleased to announce *Molecules and Buildings*, an exhibition of new and selected works by William Leavitt. On view from 21 March through 18 April, this will be Leavitt's fifth solo exhibition at the gallery.

Inspired by the retro-future style that characterizes much of Los Angeles-area architecture, Leavitt exposes the narrative potential of our highly syncretic built environment and its tentative relationship to the natural. In several of the paintings, magnified molecular models hover mysteriously over structures, implying at once structural stability and playful activity. Another group of paintings offers views of the abundant trees the artist encountered when moving from the urban flatlands of mid-Wilshire to the more verdant sub-urban hills of Silverlake.

This isolation of specific elements – architectural features, fragments of the Los Angeles landscape – is typical of Leavitt's wide-ranging practice: in installations, photography, painting, drawing, music, film, and theatrical production. Since the late 1960s Leavitt has employed prosaic segments of popular culture and vernacular architecture as both props and signifiers within a generic narrative structure, often modeled after soap operas and Hollywood B-movies.

Leavitt's work has been included in important museums exhibitions, *Paris-Los Angeles*, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, 2006; *Made in California: 1900-2000*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 2000; and *Reconsidering the Object of Art*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, 1996. Recently included in *index: conceptualism in california* at MOCA, Leavitt's work can presently be seen in the *2008 California Biennial* at the Orange County Museum of Art, and will be a part of *In and Out of Amsterdam: 1960-1976*, opening at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, in July 2009.

Margo Leavin Gallery is located at 812 North Robertson Boulevard in Los Angeles.
Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

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