

# CHURNER *and* CHURNER

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Exhibition: **Lisi Raskin**  
*Shots in the Dark*

Dates: **23 February – 31 March 2012**  
opening reception: 23 February, 6-8 pm

Churner and Churner presents a solo exhibition of works by Brooklyn-based artist Lisi Raskin. “Shots in the Dark” includes work made from 2005 to 2012 and is the artist’s first gallery exhibition in New York in five years.

Lisi Raskin’s fascination with the military-industrial complex has long been central to her artistic practice. For over a decade, Raskin’s work has been moored to a Cold War narrative; in Julia Bryan-Wilson’s words, Raskin “performs, rather than enacts,” research. In 2005, the artist spent a month in Scotland looking for nuclear submarines. Since then, she has traveled to the Arctic Circle, former East German and Yugoslav atomic bunkers, and through the American West while examining remnants of twentieth-century militarism. This on-site investigation has informed the making of drawings, objects, videos, and large, constructed environments that simultaneously quell and stimulate Raskin’s disquieted relationship to technologies spurred on by war.

In “Shots in the Dark” Raskin reevaluates the endgame of her own process, centered until now on large-scale, temporary installations. Over the past year, she has been cultivating an emerging direction in her work: a series of *plein air* paintings made in industrial Brooklyn. Raskin’s practice, which began as an investigation of bricolage and the possibilities of artwork in a post-9/11 environment, and mutated into an extended, decidedly handmade exploration of the aesthetics of war, has now mutated once again to incorporate and deploy the medium of oil painting. Materially, the oil-on-Belgian-linen works are radically different from Raskin’s previous constructions of balsa wood, foil, cardboard, and construction paper. But shown alongside such objects recovered from previous installations in Athens, Berlin, and Stockholm, it is clear that the paintings retain the artist’s cumulative visual language.

Raskin’s constructions have never been literal reproductions; as the artist has explained, she chose the hand crafted forms of her collages and sculptures in order to “collapse the space of sculpture into a space that would immediately signal fiction to the viewer . . . so that a more prolonged relationship with the object could be possible.” For this exhibition, she has signaled that fiction to an even greater degree by reworking objects from previous installations. Like ceremonial weapons inlaid with precious metals and gold, Raskin’s adaptations – of a pine cone rocket, an 8-foot collaged map of Operation Barbarossa, and a balsa wood TEC-DC9, for example – render them ever further from the real object.

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

**Lisi Raskin** has had solo exhibitions at the Blanton Museum of Art, University of Texas at Austin (2009); CCS Bard Hessel Museum of Art, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York (2008); Gävle Konstcentrum, Gävle, Sweden (2007); and PS1/MoMA Contemporary Art Center, New York (2006), among others. She will have a solo show at the ICA at the Maine College of Art, Portland, in 2012 and one at Art in General in 2013. Recent group exhibitions include those at Frankfurter Kunstverein; Kunsthaus Graz, Austria; Bunker Ark Konjic, Bosnia; Reed Gallery, University of Cincinnati; and participation in the 2011 Singapore Biennial and 2009 Athens and Istanbul Biennials. Raskin earned a BA from Brandeis University, Waltham, MA, and an MFA from Columbia University, New York. She was the 2008 artist in residence at the Center for Curatorial Studies, Bard College. Her most recent online projects include *Endgame Tourism*, commissioned by Triple Canopy ([canopycanopycanopy.com/15/endgame\\_tourism](http://canopycanopycanopy.com/15/endgame_tourism)), and *Warning Warum*, commissioned by Dia ([awp.diaart.org/raskin/](http://awp.diaart.org/raskin/)).

## GALLERY INFO

exhibition title: Lisi Raskin: Shots in the Dark  
exhibition dates: February 23 – March 31, 2012  
gallery hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 10am – 6pm  
location: 205 10<sup>th</sup> Ave at 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, C/E to 23rd  
contact name: Rachel Churner  
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