

Gareth Lichty
Brickworks

Red Head Gallery
January 10 - January 31, 2004
Opening Reception: Saturday, January 10, 2-5pm

Bricks are the fundamental, archaic units of standing structures, earthen and fired: the Pharaohs' pyramidal tombs were made brick by brick, the great walls of Babylon were made of bricks, the factories of the Industrial Revolution were made of bricks. The vast brickworks needed for these structures were of necessity dug on site, and the color and texture of the bricks themselves evoked the place in which they were made.

Gareth Lichty's sculptures are fashioned from miniature, hand-made bricks, each brick a singularity bearing the inevitable asymmetries of touch. For his thesis exhibition at York University, Lichty deftly exploited the versatility and allusiveness of bricks, making wheel barrows and vessels in a variety of simple, organic shapes: created from basic elements, Lichty's work refers back to primordial forms of work and survival. In Brickworks, his first exhibition at The Red Head Gallery, Lichty expands his natural vocabulary by intervening in the Gallery's primary architecture. Hanging brick windows obstruct the gallery's walls. Named after the ritual in which Mesopotamian kings placed the first brick of a new Ziggurat, "Asada" consists of duct-like brick tubing propped against the wall and wrapped around the gallery's central pillars. Lichty's combination of a classic building material, hand-made processes, and miniaturization is crucial to the impact of his work, for it creates subtle ambiguities of scale: small bricks accumulate into intricate structures which feel by turns manufactured and intimate.

Gareth Lichty is an artist who lives and works in Acton, Ontario. He studied Fine Arts at York University. In addition to his thesis exhibit at York, he had a solo exhibit in Wakefield, England, and has been included in group exhibitions in Leeds, England, Toronto, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan.

Red Head Gallery
401 Richmond St. W, studio 115
Toronto, Ontario
M5V 3A8 Canada
Gallery Hours: Tuesday - Friday 12-5, Saturday 11-5
416.504.5654
art@redheadgallery.org
www.redheadgallery.org