



# The Horticultural Society of New York

148 West 37th Street, 13th Floor • New York, NY 10018  
212-757-0915 • 212-246-1207 (fax) • [hsny@hsny.org](mailto:hsny@hsny.org) • [www.hsny.org](http://www.hsny.org)

For Immediate Release:

## **Tim Knowles: *for the Baron***

April 27 – June 24, 2011

**Opening Reception:** Wednesday, April 27th, from 6:00 to 8:30pm

**The Horticultural Society of New York** (The Hort) is pleased to present *for the Baron* by British artist Tim Knowles as part of its continuing exhibitions program featuring artists who find inspiration from nature. On view will be photographs, drawings, video and sculpture from three projects that explore randomness and restoration in both the built and natural environment.

Knowles' work is focused on process but maintains a spirit of experimentation by incorporating elements of chance and randomness. In his series of *Tree Drawings*, nature is an active participant in the creative process. By attaching drawing instruments to low-hanging tree branches Knowles records a tree's natural motions in the wind, as well as its moments of stillness. Each drawing acts as a signature, revealing the unique qualities and characteristics of the tree.

Also on view are two projects that explore seed dispersal and environmental restoration. In a video-documented walk Knowles experiments with releasing seeds over the course of a journey through an urban landscape. Attired in a custom-made "seed suit", Knowles scattered seeds along his path, to be eventually marked by the growth of native wildflowers, shrubs and trees. Referencing seed bombs and guerilla gardening tactics, Knowles also constructed winged seed sculptures from lightweight materials such as hair and feathers. These seed vessels are designed to be released into abandoned urban spaces by wind currents.

These works find equal inspiration from conceptual land art (specifically Agnes Denes' Battery Park *Wheatfield* and the sculptural walks of Richard Long), the folklore of Johnny Appleseed, and the history of environmental activism, stretching from Gerrard Winstanley and the Diggers movement in 17th Century England to the community gardening movements in 1970s New York City. The exhibition's title is an homage to the titular character of Italo Calvino's *Baron in the Trees*. In the novel, the young Cosimo Pivoasco di Rondo forsakes the royal life for an existence in the trees. There is a similar romanticism to the way Knowles relinquishes himself and the works on view here to nature and its seemingly chaotic forces.

A concurrent exhibition, *Recorded Delivery*, will be held at **bitforms gallery** (April 28 - May 27), featuring new works that record the unseen world of the postal service and scientifically map the movement of objects as they navigate the automated mail system. On view will be a series of photographs from his *Post Box* art project that he completed in collaboration with the UK's Royal Mail in early January, as well as postal drawings that are produced inside parcels as they travel through the mail. Like the seed dispersal projects, the postal works rely on chance and circumstance to reveal the otherwise hidden aspects of a journey.

Tim Knowles is an internationally exhibited artist. His *Post Box* project was recently featured in *The Independent*. His work has also been featured in *ArtForum*, *Cabinet Magazine*, and *The Guardian*. On May 31, 2011 Knowles will present *The Weather Exchange*, a collaboration with Brazilian artist Cadu Costa, at Galeria Vermelho in Sao Paolo, Brazil.

The Hort is the premier resource center for all things horticultural in New York City. Through a broad array of unique educational, vocational, and therapeutic programs, resources and exhibitions, The Hort brings together plant and gardening experts and enthusiasts to share knowledge, exchange information, and take part in activities that enhance environmental and cultural life in New York. The exhibition program combines an innovative curatorial approach with a unique gallery space to showcase emerging and established artists in all media who are inspired by the natural world.

The Gallery at The Horticultural Society of New York is free and open to the public Monday to Friday, from 12 to 6pm. For additional information, please visit [www.hsny.org](http://www.hsny.org) or contact Chris Murtha, Curator of Exhibitions, at 212-757-0915 x121 or [cmurtha@hsny.org](mailto:cmurtha@hsny.org).