

ROBERT BILLS CONTEMPORARY

222 NORTH DESPLAINES STREET LOWER LEVEL CHICAGO IL 60661 ROBERTBILLSCONTEMPORARY.COM

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Tiphanie Spencer

Subconscious Thought

March 19- April 19, 2011

Opening reception March 19, 5-8 pm

Tiphanie Spencer's paintings and collages present a unique melding of modern and contemporary aesthetics that results in an intensely visual experience. Her playful and emotive figures are built from a variety of geometric forms and gestural strokes that recall the most basic tenants of modern painting, yet bring these historical techniques to the contemporary period. The immensely colorful and expressive characters bring to life her psychological and political narratives, which take place in diverse environments that sometimes incorporate text and distort a quasi-cubist perspective. Through her seamless blending of 20th century influences and contemporary references, both her French and American roots become visible within her diverse art historical vocabulary.

Spencer grew up surrounded by paintings of her maternal grandparents, Maxine and Edward Runci, who were active figures of the American contemporary art and advertising scenes in the 50s. In 1998, she began to gain recognition as an artist when she organized her first solo show in an underground New York club. When she returned to Paris in 2000, Spencer spent 4 years working with Yann Arthus-Bertrand. During this period, she began a series of drawings that superimposed cartoon-based forms and non-figurative shapes. Spencer moved to Los Angeles in 2007, where she began a series of larger artworks, branching out into different media and a wider range of color palettes. She returned to Paris in 2008 and began incorporating symbols and content from new sources. Spencer now lives and works in Chicago.

Robert Bills Contemporary is located in Chicago's West Loop district. The gallery was recently acclaimed by the *Chicago Tribune* and voted one of the hottest new galleries at NEXT 2010. For general inquiries please contact the Gallery Director, Emma Stein at emma@robertbillscontemporary.com, or call 312.234.9091.