

**Jim Breukelman**  
**PAINTBALL: URBAN WAR GAME LANDSCAPES**

February 14<sup>th</sup> through March 19<sup>th</sup>  
Opening reception Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2.00-5.00pm



Republic Gallery is pleased to present an intriguing new series of vibrant, large-scale landscape photographs by Jim Breukelman.

In 2008 Breukelman visited the site of *'North Shore Paintball'* in North Vancouver, British Columbia. Depicted is a self-contained environment unlike anything else Breukelman has encountered. It is a place where good friends put aside daily routines to stalk and shoot at each other in games such as *'Elimination'*, *'King Of The Hill'*, and *'Capture The Flag'*. The player/combatants wear full-face masks, neck guards, and protective clothing because the impact of paintballs—traveling at up to ninety-one metres per second—can be wicked, raising painful welts. The balls that miss their intended targets end up hitting cover such as tree trunks, walls of old tires, and wooden bunkers, creating a hap-hazard, abstract landscape colour-

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smacked with splats of paint. Although the action is fluid and unpredictable, there are rules of engagement, and strategy plays a large part in shaping the events that occur. Some people see this activity as a trivialization of gun-violence and war. Those who take part in it see it as an exciting sport or game that hurts no one. Whatever one's point of view is, it cannot be denied that this sport reflects the times we live in.

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*PAINTBALL: URBAN WAR GAME LANDSCAPES* is Jim's second solo exhibition with Republic Gallery and will be showing from February 14<sup>th</sup> through March 19<sup>th</sup> with an artist reception on Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2 – 5 pm. Gallery hours are 11 am – 4 pm, Wednesday through Saturday and by appointment.

For more information, please contact Pantea Haghighi by phone at 604.632.1590 or via email at [pantea@republicgallery.com](mailto:pantea@republicgallery.com).