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For Immediate Release:

Dale Berning

Study in Mixed Accents for Many Leaves and Other Marbles

(Sanaé et Euphémie)

January 17 through February 21, 2009

Take Ninagawa is proud to announce the opening of London-based emerging sound and visual artist Dale Berning's first solo show at the gallery, "Study in Mixed Accents for Many Leaves and Other Marbles (Sanaé et Euphémie)." The exhibition will feature a mixed-media floor installation and large- and small-scale drawings in ink on paper.

Dale Berning visualizes the world through the sounds she imagines things make. As such, much of her art is about synesthesia—the crossing of the senses—and the distortion of meaning created when symbols are dislocated from the ideas they represent. For this exhibition, Berning will turn the gallery into an environment for potential sound events through a chaotic installation of commonplace items such as bells, wind-up motors, marbles and buttons. Visitors accidentally stepping on objects, gusts of wind and gravitational force will activate the environment, triggering the sounds of bells chiming or marbles rolling across the floor. Berning will "play" the environment once, during the exhibition opening, but the focus is not on realizing the potential for sound, rather it is on creating a situation in which an infinite number of scenarios or spontaneous compositions can unfold.

The objects used in the installation reappear in a series of drawings in ink on paper also on display that serve as analogs to Berning's work with sound. Inspired by diverse source material including medieval illuminated manuscripts, botanical studies and *ukiyo-e* woodblock prints, the drawings arrange disparate images together on a shared picture plane, but stop short of allowing narrative interpretation. The titular images of the diptych *Sanaé et Euphémie* (2008), for example, are a finely rendered peacock and a young hart huddled together in the bottom corner of one of the panels. The traditional Japanese and French names suggest that the composition has some mythical referent, but in fact they have no particular significance. As with the sound installation, the drawings instead offer the starting point for an infinite number of possible narratives. Often featuring long, looping tendrils of vines or tightly interwoven tree branches that spread across their length, the drawings also recall approaches to avant-garde musical notation that attempts to break away from systematized constructs.

Also on display will be a new series of relief "cut outs"—drawings of botanical forms on paper discs from which the artist has cut out all the negative space. Made as experimental exercises, the "cut outs" will be installed in a row on a matte gray wall in the gallery.

Educated between France and England, Johannesburg-born Dale Berning graduated with an MFA in Fine Art Media from London's Slade School of Fine Art in 2003. She previously exhibited in Tokyo at Takefloor 404&502 in 2006 and was a resident at Osaka Arts Aporia/CASO in 2005. Berning has participated in group shows at venues including Galerie E. Iragui, Moscow; Mehr Gallery, New York; APT Gallery, London; and Jerwood Space, London. She released her first album, *The Horse Stories*, with Bo'Veavil Recodings (London) in 2006 and her second, *The Horse and Camel Stories*, with the Japanese label flau in 2007.