

# artnet magazine

Saturday, April 01, 2006



Dagger, work on wood door. 80" x 28", mixed media, 2004

## A4L GALLERY

45 East 20th Street, 9th floor New York, NY, 10003

Opening: Tuesday, April 11, 2006, 5 - 9PM

We are pleased to announce the opening of the deeply-moving exhibition "**NARCISSIST**," an ongoing theme by artist **Michael Souter**. This show consists of "Daggers," "Wraps" and "Mirrors," a series in which Souter exposes the depth of his own experiences with the narcissistic personality. This series explores the violent aspects of narcissism, its physical and mental abuse, its power struggles and the overwhelming aggression that lies barely beneath the surface. It examines the immersion of a victim in the narcissist's reality and non-reality. It documents the aftermath of encounters with the narcissist and the subsequent decoding of truth from fiction that occurs during recovery from encounters with this malignant personality type. It reveals the narcissist as one with an uncontrolled desire to possess center stage, damaging the participant with crushing, selfish and dehumanizing force.

The work is influenced by materials dealing with Narcissism-from the plays and movies of **Neil LaBute** to **Sam Vaknin**, author of "Malignant Self Love - Narcissism Revisited". Combining words, sentiments and image with personal experience, the five part series express different sides of the disorder.

Michael holds a BFA in Graphic Design and a BA in painting from Western Michigan University. Michael has also held faculty appointments as a instructor at the Ecole Internationale in Geneva and California College of Arts and Crafts. Over the course of his career his paintings have been exhibited in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Geneva.

More images of work and information may be found at [www.michaelsouter.com](http://www.michaelsouter.com), [www.art4love.com](http://www.art4love.com), [www.a4lgallery.com](http://www.a4lgallery.com) and on [www.artnet.com](http://www.artnet.com).

### CONTACT:

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Exhibition and general gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday,  
10 AM to 6 PM.