

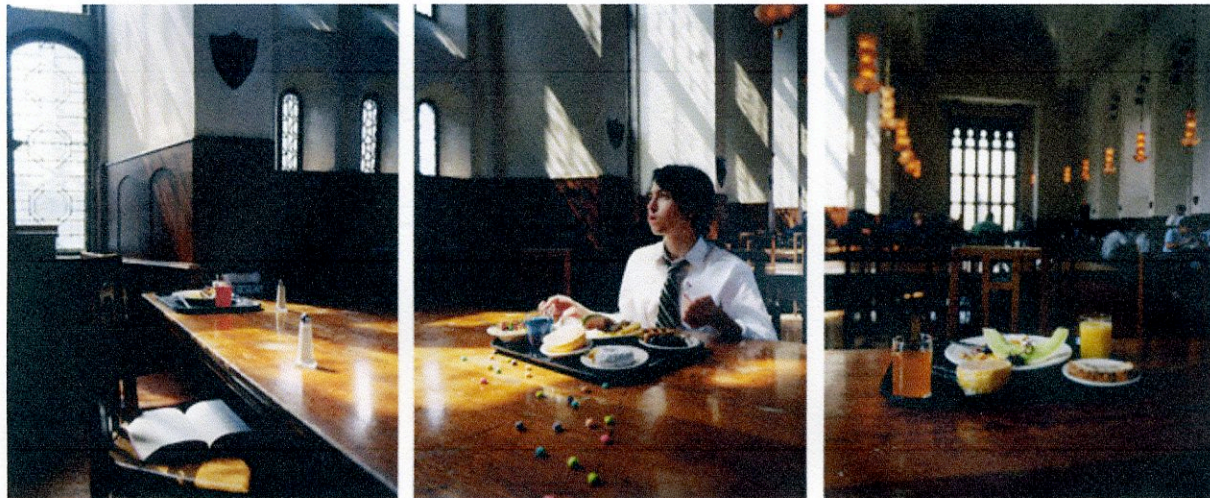
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**David Hilliard**  
***Being Like***

December 11, 2008 – January 31, 2009

Reception for the artist: Thursday, December 11, 6-8pm

Project Gallery: *Contemporary Abstractions*



In *Being Like*, David Hilliard's fourth solo exhibition at Yancey Richardson Gallery, the artist presents a series of multi-panel narrative photographs which examine the often-conflicted nature of masculinity and the environments in which it develops and unfolds. In this body of work boys of various ages experience a series of physical and emotional tests that serve as life markers or milestones, of sorts. They hunt, love, compete, bleed, fail...but ultimately persevere.

Although much of Hilliard's work has contained autobiographical references, *Being Like* is the closest he has come to creating an overarching self-portrait. Previously, Hilliard has touched upon themes such as longing, faith, mortality, sexuality, and father and son relationships, often revolving around what he calls "the masculine condition" involving lovers, unobtainable strangers, boys coming of age, and his father. Throughout the series there exists an implied lineage: a boy's life lived; sometimes his own, sometimes another's, with much of the imagery possessing a sense of melancholia not devoid of hope. For Hilliard, *Being Like* is a re-visitation of sorts, where he's often looking back, reflecting upon his own past and photographic practice.

David Hilliard received an MFA degree from the Yale University School of Art and was the director of undergraduate photography there from 2002-2005. He has been the recipient of numerous awards including a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship and a Fulbright Grant. In 2008 he received the Massachusetts College of Art and Design Alumni Association Achievement Award. A monograph, *David Hilliard*, was published by Aperture in 2005. Hilliard's work has been exhibited at and collected by major museums including the Art Institute of Chicago; Yale University Art Gallery; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Whitney Museum of American Art; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; and Philadelphia Museum of Art, among others.

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