



A Rose..., 2008. Color drypoint with flat bite etching. Paper size: $39\frac{1}{2} \times 39\frac{3}{4}$ "; image size: $30\frac{1}{2} \times 31\frac{3}{4}$ ". Edition 20. Printed by Ianne Kjorlie.

TOM MARIONI

Two New Drypoints, a Book, and a Show

Tom Marioni is a San Francisco sculptor who has been making prints at Crown Point Press since 1974. In November, 2008, Crown Point releases two new Marioni drypoint prints. One is illustrated here, and the other is on the reverse side of this sheet, functioning as an illustration as it does in Marioni's new book. *Fabliaux: Tom Marioni Fairy Tales*. The word *fabliaux*, according to Webster's, means "short, usually comic, frankly coarse, and often cynical tales in verse popular in the 12th and 13th centuries." The dedication page reads "for adults." The stories are: The Three Little Pigs, Hansel and Gretel, Jack and the Beanstalk, Rip van Winkle, Cinderella, Goldilocks and the Three Bears, and Little Red Riding Hood. Marioni conceived the book as a catalog to accompany a small print retrospective on view in the Crown Point Gallery in January, 2009. Here is a statement from Tom Marioni:

"I made the circle prints by using a drypoint tool inserted into a piece of bamboo. I marked several copper plates for each image. By estimating the diameters, I could draw the circles so the colors would more-or-less overlap each other. The drawings measure the reach of my arm and are freehand circles. *A Rose...* is the first part of Gertrude Stein's famous poem that is printed in a circle. It's Not Easy Being Green is the title of a song from The Muppets; it was first sung by Kermit the Frog on Sesame Street. Later Ray Charles recorded it—a black man singing it's not easy being a color. Today we should all try to be more green."

The Three Little Pigs

—Architecture—

Not long ago in San Francisco there were three little pigs named Tom, Dick and Harry, only they weren't so little. They each weighed 300 pounds. They were trying to make an honest living without resorting to selling their little pigs' feet. They had all studied art and design in college. Harry specialized in basket weaving in a crafts class, and became a decorator. Dick studied organic design and worked as a landscape architect. Tom took the industrial materials classes and worked as a builder. Since the three pigs all came from the same mother pig and were all born at the same time, like most pigs they were multiple originals. Even though they were identical brothers, the three pigs built their houses differently. They all had inclinations toward art, but with different orientations toward materials. Harry decided to build his house out of straw. The house was formless and resembled the anti-form sculpture of the late 1960s. It had good insulation with thick straw walls, but was not stable. In a storm the house would start to fall apart and in the dry season it was a fire hazard. But the house looked good, and Harry put it together in less than a week. Dick built his house out of sticks. The house had the quality of a bird's nest with the sticks woven together and this gave it more stability than the straw house. It looked like a large round matchstick house with a thatched roof and great natural color. This structure was destined for a folk art museum. It was all wood with polished floors made of sanded sticks. The crosshatched sticks were pretty strong, but Dick's house could not stand up to even a small earthquake. Tom made his house out of bricks and steel, very minimal. The floor was brick and the walls were rolled Cor-Ten Steel. This house was a kind of 1960s-1990s Carl Andre-Richard Serra collaboration. It was cold, but the hand of the artist was there, and the house was destined to be collected by some museum of modern art. In the same town lived a wolf that loved his BLT on T with Tea. The wolf wasn't interested in art or architecture. He had a big black Hummer military vehicle that he drove to Harry's house, South of Market. With the engine running, the wolf called to the pig to come out or he would huff and puff and blow the house in, using the Hummer's exhaust. Harry said, "Not by the hair on my chin," and ran out the back door. He made it to Dick's stick house just in time. The wolf drove over to North Beach to Dick's house and announced that he would knock out the front door by ramming it. The two pigs knew the stick house was no match for the Hummer and made it out the back to Tom's house down by the bay. The wolf was getting tired of the pigs making their getaway out the back, so when he got to Tom's house he went right to the back of the house with his vehicle and announced through his loudspeaker that he was going to ram the house and knock it down. His car was up against the steel house with its wheels spinning, but all he could do was scratch the surface while the three pigs were safe inside laughing, smoking cigars, and drinking bourbon Manhattans. The wolf's clutch went out and he had to call Triple A to get towed. He decided to move back to the woods where pigs were not so smart.



It's Not Easy Being Green, 2008. Paper size: 34½ × 30¾";
image size: 23½ × 20¾".