

# Chic City Rats

## The cloud chamber of Tavares Strachan



Glo-Our Rain Maker, installation view, 2006

Photo Hermann Feldhaus - Courtesy Ronald Feldman Fine Arts and Plerogi Gallery

The Bahamean artist Tavares Strachan likes to build works of art that address environmental issues. After exhibiting a monumental cube of Alaskan ice in the Bahamas on the hottest day of the year, he settled simultaneously in two New York galleries last fall, and turned them into cloud factories. A part of the *Haus der Kulturen der Welt* in Berlin will undergo the same transformation next August.

Using a computer, some electronics, and the pressure inside glass spheres, he reproduces the formation of clouds from New York's water and silicon dust. These artificial clouds live for only ten to fifteen minutes. Enigmatic photographs, included in the same exhibition space, illustrate different stages of the process. For now these clouds-to-be slumber somewhere between Europe and America, safe in the contorted pipes and stills of Strachan's, a modern alchemist.



Glo-Our Rain Maker, Cumulonimbus (Calvus) I, 2006

Glo-Our Rain Maker (detail of dust), 2006

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