

CLAIRE OLIVER

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Trevor Guthrie

Another Sputnik Moment, Please

October 20 - November 19, 2011

Opening reception with the Artist: Thursday | October 20 | 6 - 8 pm

To the casual viewer, Trevor Guthrie's works of art appear to be large-scale black and white photographs. However, upon closer examination, one realizes that they are not photographs at all, but rather the Artist's painstakingly rendered hyper realist charcoal drawings. Guthrie is obsessed with politics and public values; his studio practice mines visual and social history as well as current events. Adamant that anything is possible should we truly believe, Guthrie produces work filled with subtle reminders that we can achieve our goals through dedication to our ideals. Instead of accepting the doom and gloom predictions for the global climate as inevitable, Guthrie seizes on the opportunity to reunite the masses and regain our lost integrity.

The Artist re-presents well-known images from both the past and present, elevating familiar icons to the level of fine art and encouraging the viewer's personal introspection. "There is a certain aesthetic that I am searching for," says Guthrie, "the oddball that lends itself to be exploited in my medium. Sampling known imagery speeds the viewer along to a more immediate place of understanding." However, the Artist infuses each artwork with a twist, metaphor, or pun, encouraging the viewer to connect on an intimate level, and leading them to chuckle when they decipher the encoded message.

Guthrie has found a delicate balance that avoids the traps of stylistic imitation. Through a keen sense of irony and without casting judgment, his cinematically lit works of art are set apart by his presentation of a unique, contemporary perspective on important events and people. As did Hopper before him, Guthrie has the ability to inhabit lonely urban space with meaning and resonance. However, Guthrie goes beyond the straight presentation of finely calculated visions to create a dialogue between himself, the viewer, and a shared visual history between them. His fetish for detail is combined with a dark sense of humor, illustrating the ironic, weird, and poignant comedy of the human experience.



The Gods
Charcoal on Paper
41 x 46 inches



A. Hitchcock Meet E. Hopper
Charcoal on Paper
47 x 39 inches

Guthrie, who lives and works in Zurich, has exhibited widely across the United States, Europe, and Canada in solo and group exhibitions. His most recent exhibition was entitled "The End of History . . . and The Return of History Painting" curated by Paco Barragán and exhibited at the Museum voor Moderne Kunst in Holland and the Museum Domus Artium in Spain. Guthrie was born in Scotland, graduated Cum Laude from the Victoria College of Art in British Columbia, and spent two years studying with renowned painter Glenn Howarth before moving to Switzerland. "Another Sputnik Moment, Please" is the Artist's first solo exhibition at Claire Oliver Gallery and his first solo exhibition in the United States.