

NOHRA HAIME GALLERY

For Immediate Release

GREGG LOUIS Psychic Ménagerie

March 19 - April 27, 2013

New York – “Psychic Ménagerie,” an exhibition by Brooklyn-based artist Gregg Louis including a video, 10 sculptures, 15 prints, and wallpaper, will be on view at the Nohra Haime Gallery from March 19th through April 27th.

Louis’ new video titled *Blots* (2013) opens the exhibition. A grid of 9 screens depict 9 participants in a faux psychological experiment. Louis, who serves as the administrator and is centrally featured, presents a series of abstract shapes on index cards. One by one, he slowly turns the cards and exposes the shapes to the participants, which clamor to respond with the first thing that comes to mind. The result is a cacophony of answers, and as the video unfolds it becomes more like Hollywood Squares than Freud’s couch.

Throughout the main gallery are Louis’ uncanny *Inkling* sculptures. From a distance, perched on top of display stands, the sculptures have a striking resemblance to specimens found in a Natural History Museum. But upon closer investigation, they become surreal forms that defy any typical taxonomy. These strange creatures are actually constructed of wigs, horns, and glass eye balls. Louis says, “The *Inkling* works came out of this idea of cloud gazing. An act many of us as children participated in. You look up towards the sky and allow your imagination to freely associate the shapes that float by you. I think of the *Inkling* sculptures as me trying to breathe life into those loosely identified shapes by bringing them down to earth and giving them a tangible form. The sculptures that result are often the strange residue of interpretation.”

Sharing space with Louis’ *Inklings* are his *Shadow* works. These edgy prints also pick up on the theme of interpretation and ontology. Using the ubiquitous Rorschach technique, the artist creates distinct prints out of sunless tanning lotion. The images that follow portray foreboding entities which feel simultaneously empty and powerful.

Gregg Louis is a Brooklyn-based artist born in St. Louis, Missouri. He has exhibited solo shows at Nohra Haime Gallery, NYC (2011); Atrium Gallery, St. Louis (2011); and Hotel Maria Kapel (collaboration), Hoorn, Netherlands (2011). His group exhibitions include *Doing Easy*, Los Caminos Gallery, St. Louis (2011); *Life in a Peaceful New World*, Interstate Projects, Brooklyn (2011); *I’m OK, You’re OK*, Concertina Gallery, Chicago (2010); *A New Currency* curated by Dan Cameron, 55 Delancey Street, NYC (2009). Louis was awarded a VBS Fonds collaborative project grant (2011); SNS REAAL Fonds collaborative project grant (2011); and SVA Alumni Scholarship Award (2009). His publications include *Wall Street Journal* (2013); *Riverfront Times* (2011); *PaperMag.com* (2009); and *Gothamist.com* (2009). Louis received his B.F.A. from the Missouri State University, M.F.A. from the School of Visual Arts, and held residency (2009) at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture.

DATES: March 19- April 27, 2013

OPENING RECEPTION: Monday, March 18th from 6 to 8 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Leslie Garrett at 212-888-3550 or art@nohrahaimегallery.com



INKLING NO. 3, 2012
hair and polished water buffalo horn (free standing
sculpture)
28 x 16 x 55 in. 71.1 x 40.6 x 139.7 cm.

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