

RH GALLERY

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Micah Ganske TOMORROW LAND november 1 - january 13



Love Canal: *Virgin Galactic Spaceship Two*, 2011.
Acrylic on Muslin. 14x14".

NEW YORK – RH Gallery is pleased to present *Tomorrow Land*, Micah Ganske's first solo exhibition with RH Gallery. *Tomorrow Land* is a collection of paintings and sculptures from an ongoing series in which Ganske depicts landscapes of toxic and abandoned areas of the United States blanketed with ominous shadows: what the artist refers to as symbols of "aspirational technology." The work highlights the casualties of technology in the following areas: Bethlehem Steel in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania; Centralia, Pennsylvania; Detroit, Michigan; Greenpoint, Brooklyn; Love Canal in Niagara Falls, New York; and Picher, Ohio. Ganske's process entails the dilution of acrylic paints used to stain untreated Muslin. The combination leaves no room for error. Ganske meticulously plans his work by compositing images found on the internet. His work points to a hyper-real experience of landscapes emerging from countless intricate lines and rich colors. Alongside his paintings, Ganske will present a series of small multiples modeled in a CAD program and then rendered with a Makerbot 3D printer. These acrylic sculptures feature three-dimensional detail-views of locations from Ganske's paintings.

Tomorrow Land: Greenpoint was the first painting Ganske made in the series. Although very much populated today, Greenpoint has been situated on toxic land for quite some time. In 1978, the U.S. Coast Guard discovered more than a century's worth of oil spills, leaks, and waste dumped by oil companies—pooling into a vast lake underneath the Brooklyn neighborhood. It is the largest known oil spill on American soil. The Environmental Protection Agency recently announced their commitment to a thorough cleanup of the area calling Newtown Creek "one of the most polluted urban water bodies in the country." Ganske's painting depicts a shadow of the Parkes radio telescope over an aerial view of Greenpoint. Here, the radio telescope looms as a symbol of what Ganske refers to as "aspirational technology".

Centralia, Pennsylvania was abandoned during the early eighties. Ganske's work, *Centralia*, depicts the remnants of the town still sitting on massive coal reserves, which over thirty years ago ignited to incinerate the town—to this day, Centralia still burns. Interestingly, there are several residents living in Centralia who refuse to leave, including the mayor. The shadow Ganske projects over Centralia is the lunar entry module from Apollo 11.

Love Canal is an area of Niagara Falls, New York. In the mid-seventies, the media revealed that Hooker Chemical buried 21,000 tons of toxic waste at the site. The Niagara Falls School Board purchased the toxic property from Hooker Chemical for \$1 in 1953 with knowledge of the waste. The construction efforts of housing development, combined with particularly heavy rainstorms, released the chemical waste, leading to a public health emergency and an urban planning scandal. The site was evacuated in 1978. Ten years after the incident, New York State Health Department Commissioner stated that Love Canal would be remembered as a "national symbol of a failure to exercise a sense of concern for future generations." Today, the only remaining traces are empty foundations and driveways, eerily depicted in Ganske's painting. The shadow of a NASA Ares 1-X rocket and

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launch pad is projected over Love Canal.

Ganske's artistic practice is rigorous in its craft and its commitment to expressing the complex relationships among people and their environment. Ganske's scientific and environmental research, in conjunction with his interest in science fiction, plays an important role in his oeuvre. Micah Ganske received his MFA in painting from the Yale School of Art. He was the recipient of the Adobe Design Award in Digital Photography for a work that was then displayed at the Guggenheim Museum in New York. In October 2007, Deitch Projects mounted his first solo exhibition. Ganske was represented by Deitch Projects until their closing in 2010. This exhibition will be Ganske's first solo exhibition at RH Gallery.

Tomorrow Land will be on view concurrently with *Collapse*, a group exhibition curated by Micah Ganske featuring Ian Davis, Maria Kozak, Colette Robbins, Maximilian Toth, Diana Al-Hadid, Erick Swenson and Heeseop Yoon.

ABOUT RH GALLERY

Founded in 2010 by Adam Taki and Rebecca Heidenberg, RH Gallery is located in the heart of TriBeCa, housed in a 3,500 square foot space over two floors featuring three exhibition spaces. Driven by Heidenberg's curatorial practice and Taki's business expertise, the gallery presents contemporary art with a focus on process-driven craft within a rigorous conceptual framework. The gallery represents an international roster of contemporary artists and features an ongoing series of thematic group exhibitions incorporating a diverse selection of renowned modern and contemporary artists.

For further information on Tomorrow Land, please visit the exhibition site at <http://www.rhgallery.com/site/exhibitions/tomorrowland> and the process video about Tomorrow Land: Greenpoint at <http://www.rhgallery.com/site/artists/video/ganskevideo.html>.

Please do not hesitate to contact Anna Nearburg for press inquiries at 646-490-6355 or anna@rhgallery.com.