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DAVID McGEE
Paintings & New Works On Paper

Opening Reception : Thursday, March 31, 2005

March 31 - April 23, 2005

Stefan Stux Gallery is delighted to present a solo exhibition of David McGee, which will open to the public on Thursday, March 31st. Well-known for his narrative paintings since the 1990's, this will be the first representation of McGee's work with Stefan Stux Gallery.

The exhibition will consist of chosen paintings that reflect an extension of McGee's recent solo exhibition, *Tetelestai: Notebooks from the Black Sea* in 2004 at DiverseWorks in Houston, Texas. Deeply rooted with spiritual beliefs and the profound influence of literature, film, and music, the exhibition was inspired by Conrad Aiken's poem *Tetelestai* [also the same title for McGee's series] which mirrors the choices and lessons one makes in the journey of life. Within this series, McGee inwardly explored the relationships that have shaped his self-awareness, as epic icons and figures were executed onto canvas.

On display is the painting *Omeros*, depicting a large horse which personifies the artist and the sense of vulnerability within his dual role, juggling to sustain the creative process within the established constraints found in the connoisseurship of collecting within the art world. The painting *Intellects of the 1980s*, underscores the depth of McGee's love for poetry; his homage to the history of painting; while it also journeys into his cultural ancestors, as imagery is re-contextualized by his questions about God, mankind, love, race, and various cultural stereotypes. Another painting within the series, *God In The Chocolate Factory* depicts an iconic split head surrounded by numerous shoes meant to reflect the various influences of poets, philosophers, jazz, and blues musicians who have shaped the artist's self-perception and framed his conceptual thinking. The final painting, *Ropers of Stars* offers a more quiet self-reflected investigation of the artist, as the duality of the iconic horse overshadows the hidden woman, shaping a hidden narrative disguised in the absence of identity by the placement of a wrapped name tag along her figure.

The new works on paper created specifically for this exhibition represents yet another extension of the artist's exploration on the dualities embedded in cultural meanings and stereotypes. Often referred to as his own version of "ready-mades" water color-based works contrasted by text. McGee draws distinction from text to seductive figures and forms with repeated iconic imagery like a dunce cap and Sambo-shaped head, to a returning dog figure, with titles like Kafka, Borges, Italians, Milton and Pyrrho. Again, the works are highly influenced by the artist's love of film, philosophy, and literature, as the titles become puns. McGee refers to his imagery as a play on the absurdities that have shaped cultural definitions within our global age. He says, "For me it is all about ongoing dialogue among my peers on what really shapes us as a people as a whole."

Born in Louisiana, David McGee currently resides in Houston where he is represented by the Texas Gallery. He has worked with the Menil Collection and has exhibited at the RISD Museum, Contemporary Arts Museum (TX), The Museum of Fine Arts, Exit Art/ First World and the Katonah Museum of Art. He is featured in a number of collections including RISD Museum, RI; Seattle Arts Council, Phillips Academy, Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, Texas Southern University Collection and the Harvard University Collection. He is currently working in conjunction with the Contemporary Arts Museum in Houston on an artist residency project in New Zealand that will travel to New York in 2006 to the New Museum.

STEFAN STUX GALLERY

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