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SHAUN O'DELL

We Remember the Sun

15 February - 15 March 2008

Susan Inglett is pleased to present the work of San Francisco based artist SHAUN O'DELL in his first solo exhibition with the gallery from 15 February to 15 March 2008. A reception for the artist will be held Friday evening 15 February from 6 to 8 PM. The artist and his free-jazz ensemble "Swords and Sandals" will perform. "Like the angel/gladiator/Greek philosopher imagery their name implies, Sword + Sandals engage in tumultuous bouts of free interactivity, wrestling sonic foes in the name of some higher ideal".

Shaun O'Dell has devoted the past eight years towards the dissection of mythological and ideological narratives which posit Man as all powerful, a force of and superior to nature. O'Dell observes that the American self concept is inextricably bound to the notion of this nation's strength and superiority whether in relation to nature or fellow man. He cites as examples Manifest Destiny, Native American genocide, slavery, the rise of industrial capitalism and resource extraction, labor wars, the world wars, Hiroshima, space flight, extending to our modern day presence in the Middle East. The investigation and mapping of these histories and their protagonists, Daniel Boone to Robert Oppenheimer, have formed the basis and strict structure of O'Dell's lexicographical image system, or drawings.

Of late, post Oppenheimer, O'Dell's drawings have become less structured and more intuitive as appropriate to his tangential exploration of a more subjective topic, apocalypse. An extension of his investigation and mapping of Hiroshima and the proliferation of nuclear weaponry, this new abstract has opened the work to broader strokes and reading. Images of mushroom clouds are replaced by those of yellow clouds and acid rain. The tables are turning. America's past had been the story of Man's imperious relationship to nature, America's future will be Nature's response.

Shaun O'Dell's work has been seen recently at the CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Art, San Francisco; in the SECA Award show at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and at the Berkeley Art Museum. He is represented in San Francisco by the Jack Hanley Gallery.

The exhibition will be on view at the gallery located 522 West 24 Street Tuesday to Saturday 10 AM to 6 PM. For additional information please contact Susan Inglett Gallery 212/647-9111, fax 212/647-9333 or info@inglettgallery.com.