

Garrison Art Center

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For immediate release

Anthropocene Drifter

Zachary Skinner

August 10 – September 15

Opening Reception: Saturday, August 10, 5 – 7PM



Dry Riverbed with Rainwater Generator and Kale
By Zachary Skinner, Oil on canvas

Garrison Art Center is pleased to present **Anthropocene Drifter**, an exhibition of paintings and sculptures by Zachary Skinner. The exhibition will be on view at the Riverside Galleries from August 10 through September 15. There will be an opening reception on Saturday, August 10, 5-7pm.

Zachary Skinner finds beauty, humor, irony and playfulness in his use of cast-off materials and his otherwise dark depictions of survival in response to increasingly violent weather due to climate change. *Anthropocene Drifter* is a powerful exhibition of paintings and sculptures depicting the dystopian point of view of a nomad living in a future in which the Earth's ecosystem has been all but destroyed. The large, interactive installation is variously constructed from recycled objects and other simple materials portraying a nomadic survival camp in the aftermath of a dysfunctional interdependence of man and nature. The viewer is invited to wander through this environment which takes us on a fictional journey. Included in the installation are live plants cultivated by imaginative techniques on structures that also function as shelters. Other functional structures generate solar power through the gallery windows. The

intention of the artist is for visitors to assume the role of nomad/survivor and contemplate their own interdependence with the land.

The paintings in the exhibition reinforce the sculptures' theme of new technologies that generate wind, hydro, or solar power as well as survivalist structures such as rafts and makeshift sailboats which through their precariousness reflect the fragile relationship between humanity and nature. The paintings also grapple with the relevance of the modern landscape. Using oil, acrylic, and mixed media, Skinner creates works that flow between authenticity and parody, fetishized forms and flatness, the Romantic sublime and post-apocalypse, invention and destruction. Paintings and sculptures can each stand alone, but together act as mutual supports for the intended narrative and create a kind of dialectical inquiry into the deeper existential questions of our time while addressing themes of humanity, ecology and sustainability.

Zachary Skinner is an interdisciplinary artist who works with themes of geo-engineering and humanitarian activism while exploring the nexus of inner strength and creativity. His recent solo exhibitions include Matteawan Gallery, Beacon NY; the Ann Felton Multicultural Center, Onondaga Community College, Syracuse, NY; and Betty Rymer Gallery, Chicago, IL. His work has been included in group exhibitions at Site:Brooklyn Gallery, Brooklyn, NY; Woodstock Artist Association and Museum, Woodstock NY; Unison Arts Center, New Paltz, NY; Theo Ganz Studio, Beacon NY; Morean Arts Center, St. Petersburg, FL; The Great Room, New York University, and Tibet House US Gallery (with performance artist Jayoung Yoon), New York, NY. Skinner was awarded residencies at Jentel Artist Residency Program, Banner, WY; I-Park Artist Residency, East Haddam, CT, and Saltonstall Foundation for the Arts, Ithaca, NY. He received a BFA from SUNY New Paltz and an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. He currently lives and works in Beacon, NY.

The Riverside Galleries at Garrison Art Center are open Tuesday through Sunday 10am to 5pm.

For more information about exhibitions and other programs please visit our website www.garrisonartcenter.org or call 845.424.3960
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