

Paul Jacobsen

Orgone

March 28 - April 27, 2013

Opening Reception: Thursday, March 28, 6 - 9 pm

Free and open to the public. / Artist in Attendance.

David B. Smith Gallery is excited to announce Paul Jacobsen's upcoming exhibition at the gallery, *Orgone*, which will open Thursday, March 28, 2013, with a reception at the gallery from 6 - 9 pm.

The title of the exhibition, *Orgone*, is taken from controversial mid-century psychoanalyst Wilhelm Reich's term for his concept of a source of cosmic energy, stemming from human sexuality and the orgasm. The exhibition comprises a series of photoreal painted works and charcoal drawings, which investigate concepts of technology, society, and visual structures—such as focused beams of light and lens flares—which have the power, both historically and now, to transform and seduce their users, citizens, and viewers.

In the main gallery there are four largescale paintings and charcoal works on paper depicting a forest scene Jacobsen photographed in upstate New York, as well as one of Zion national park. The light in these images is penetrating, hearkening back to theological and later mystical depictions of the light of God, as well as the lens flares employed in the Westerns of the 50s, New Age literature, and the current transitional graphics of Fox News.

The exhibition features six charcoal works depicting portraits of historical figures such as Jean-Jacques Rousseau and Jim Jones, and signs of mass entertainment such as early cinema's Frankenstein and the photographed Victorian nude, in addition to a studiously rendered pair of black flags, with *Orgone*, Jacobsen identifies the enticing pull of these symbols, as well as their contextual associations.

Jacobsen presents the intersection of mass culture, sexuality, pornography, antiestablishment energies, murderous cults, and the tenets of modern and contemporary civilization, and offers them up for contemplation. These works are also beautiful, as Jacobsen packages his exploration of these concepts in works meant to draw the viewer in for the long read, with the idea that the images will offer more with repeated viewing.

Please join us for a reception with Paul Jacobsen, to be held at the gallery on Thursday, March 28, from 6 - 9 pm. On the occasion of the exhibition, David B. Smith Gallery will release a full-color catalogue in mid-April. Please visit our website for more information about this exhibition and the accompanying catalogue.

About the Artist

Artist Paul Jacobsen was born in Denver in 1976. He grew up in family of artists in a small mountain town and spent several years in Brooklyn before returning to Colorado to continue his painting studies with acclaimed photoreal painter, Daniel Sprick. Typically working with traditional mediums such as oil paint and charcoal, Jacobsen investigates the intersection of civilization and technology. Often approaching these ideas through natural and landscape imagery, as well as with the nude figure, many of his works carry an element of satire and dark humor. In addition to his formal studies, Jacobsen's practice has been enriched by a decade of studio work in support of Jeff Koons, Sean Scully, and, for the last six years, Rudolf Stingel. Jacobsen's works have been exhibited at MASS MoCA and the Aspen Art Museum among others. His works are included in a number of public and private collections, including Harvard Business School, and the collections of Gianfranco Mossetto, Rudolf Stingel, and Howard Tullman. Jacobsen currently lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

About David B. Smith Gallery

David B. Smith Gallery is Denver's venue for compelling contemporary art. Since its founding in 2007, the gallery has been committed to presenting intelligent and culturally relevant exhibitions featuring work from some of today's most dynamic artists with growing international reputations. Through extensive media coverage and participation in leading art fairs, David Smith has cultivated a strong regional, national and international collector audience. *The New York Times* hailed the gallery as offering, "an exciting contrast of cutting edge works." In addition to its curatorial program, David B. Smith maintains an active publishing division, which produces limited edition artist prints and monographs.