

• FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE •

Paul Jacobsen: *Outpost*

May 1 – May 29, 2015

Opening Reception: Friday, May 1, 7-9 pm
Free and open to the public / Artist in Attendance

David B. Smith Gallery is pleased to welcome New York-based artist Paul Jacobsen for his second solo exhibition at the gallery, opening on Friday, May 1. In *Outpost*, Jacobsen's new body of work records scenes from a year when societal boundaries were crossed and personal dreams set into motion. The paintings in this exhibition continue and expand on the ideas of Jacobsen's 2014 exhibition, "Lean-to," which featured artworks that invited viewers to contemplate still life images of interiors from the artist's domestic spaces and black and white arrangements from the artist's work space. While seemingly traditional still lifes, the works served as the artist's subtle critique of industrialized society. The content and technique speak to Jacobsen's attempt to insulate himself from this very type of industrial environment and modernist influences.

Jacobsen purchased a miner's cabin in the San Juan Mountains of Colorado just prior to the legalization of marijuana, and the paintings in *Outpost* serve as documents of his experiments in growing this newly legal plant. In these still lifes, the marijuana plant is the central focus against a dark background, along with wild mushrooms collected on long hikes and crystals gifted from friends. These paintings hearken back to traditional Dutch paintings of tulips, itself a coveted plant in its day. Deploying the technique of lens flare, Jacobsen highlights the importance of the camera, while also referencing the religious, spiritual, and cultist motif of light symbolizing the divine. The usage of this "heavenly" light on these cannabis plants both humorously references ideas of the "sacred herb," while serving as homage to this new law regarding marijuana - Jacobsen sees this as an innovative first step towards ending a global war on drugs.

One central work in the exhibition is an installation of wooden beams and stacked wood, referencing the artist's cabin and adjacent dynamite storage shack that served as starting point for this body of work. This rural "outpost" – a self-imposed hermitage, provides a remote seclusion from modern industrial society. Jacobsen's retreats to this reclusive space serves as a semblance of freedom from society and the possibility of self-sustenance, evoking the western, pioneering spirit of homesteading, and seeking the "American Dream" along the next frontier. Jacobsen's work is interested in the stories that the objects of the material world hold and the stories within our living spaces.



image: *Untitled*, 2014, oil on linen, 40 x 30 inches (101.6 x 76.2 cm)

About Paul Jacobsen

Artist Paul Jacobsen was born in Denver in 1976. He grew up in family of artists in a small mountain town in Colorado and moving to Brooklyn at a young age he has split his time between the two ever since. Forgoing a formal art degree Jacobsen has taken classes in Florence at Lorenzo De Medici Instituto de Arte, studied privately with acclaimed realist still life painter Daniel Sprick and worked for Artists such a Jeff Koons and Rudolf Stingel. Typically working with traditional mediums such as oil paint and charcoal, Jacobsen investigates the intersection of civilization and technology. His works have been exhibited at MASS MoCA and the Aspen Art Museum, among other institutions. Jacobsen lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

About David B. Smith Gallery

David B. Smith Gallery is committed to presenting intelligent and culturally relevant exhibitions in its Denver location, featuring the region's most important emerging talent alongside internationally recognized artists. Through its curatorial program, participation in art fairs, and extensive media coverage in publications such as *Art in America* and *ARTnews*, David B. Smith Gallery 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." The gallery also maintains an active publishing division, which produces exhibition catalogues and editions.