DAVID B SMITH
GALLERY

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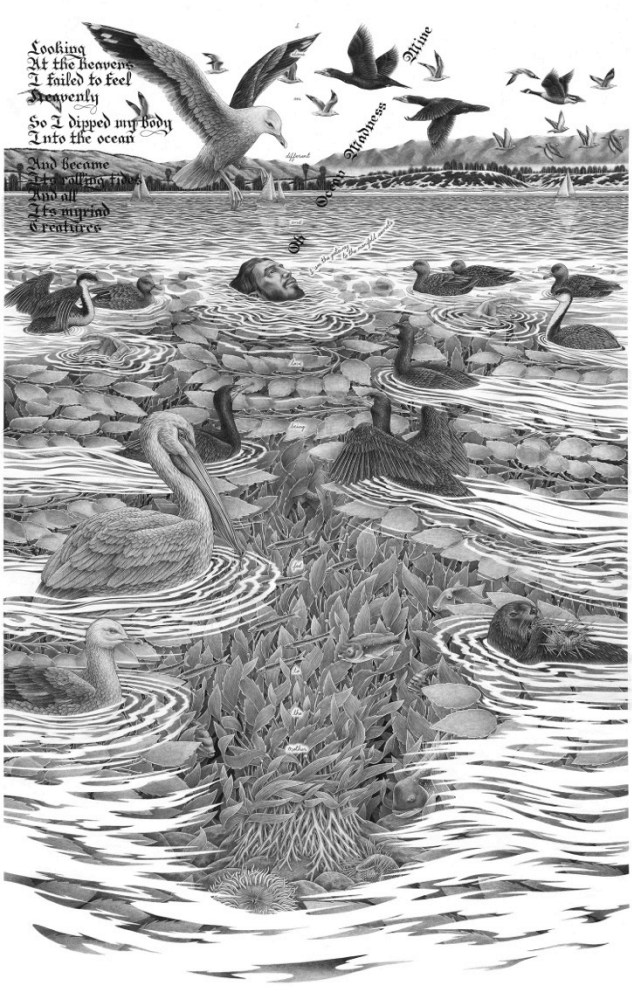
Eric Beltz: *When Jesus Swims He Becomes The Ocean*
September 12 – October 10, 2015

Opening Reception: Saturday, September 12, 7-9 pm
Free and open to the public / Artist in Attendance

David B. Smith Gallery is proud to present Eric Beltz's first solo exhibition in Colorado, *When Jesus Swims He Becomes The Ocean*. This exhibition continues the artist's exploration into American culture and vernacular, religious mythologies, history, apparitions, and ornithology.



The graphite drawings included in this exhibition often feature solitary men surrounded by a hyper real, yet fantastic landscape. In *When Jesus Swims He Becomes The Ocean,* Beltz depicts Jesus, naked, submerged in a body of water surrounded by sea birds, an otter and kelp. Beltz's signature text reads "I alone am different and love being fed to the mother". At once familiar and foreign, Beltz offers his audience a hallucinatory world and phrase that evokes a mash-up of gospel, sacred text, and avant- garde poetry.

Other highly rendered graphite drawings in this exhibition include, *Buddha Zodiac*, which addresses Beltz's interest in religion's relationship with psychotropic substances and *Spirits,* which wrestles with the complex issues surrounding American symbolism and values, conservation and ecology. All of the work in this exhibition highlights the artist's capacity for nuance while addressing philosophical conundrums and dreamlike representation of contemporary concerns.

Beltz received his MFA from UC Santa Barbara where he currently teaches drawing in the Department of Art. His work has been featured in Art in America, Juxtapoz, Flaunt Magazine, and others. His work has been shown in galleries and museums across the United States and is held in the permanent collections of the Nerman Museum (KS), the Progressive Collection (OH), and the Santa Barbara Museum of Art (CA). Most recently, Beltz was the Artist in Residence at the Art Design & Architecture Museum at the University of Santa Barbara. The residency included an exhibition titled "The Cave of Treasures" which received critical attention with coverage in the Santa Barbara independent and the Santa Barbara Newspress. This is Beltz's first exhibition with the gallery.

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.

image: Eric Beltz, *When Jesus Swims He Becomes The Ocean*, 2015, graphite on Bristol, 39 x 29 in. (99.06 x 73.66 cm)