



Press Release: ***Eric LoPresti: Test Site***

Date to Release: Immediately

Exhibit Dates: July 1 – September 1, 2013

Opening: July 1, 5:00-7:00pm

The National Atomic Testing Museum (NATM) is proud to present ***Eric LoPresti: Test Site***, including four large-scale paintings related to the Nevada Test Site and its aftermath. The series speaks to technology's complex impact on our civic and moral life, as well as to the American southwest's cultural history.

LoPresti's aerial landscapes of nuclear sites convey the moral ambiguity of Cold War-era historical conflicts by way of an incisive yet pleasurable aesthetic. The paintings' evocative geographies and precise line work make reference to the scarred landscapes of past conflicts, where contours emerge as if from memory. Yet, the paintings, with their diffuse color gradients and halos, are disarmingly seductive.

LoPresti's paintings are based on archival photographs showing vast southwestern landscapes crisscrossed with roads and pocked with nuclear subsidence craters. Drawing from this photographic source material, he then overlays color fields with geometries that suggest military satellite imagery and vector graphics. The paintings strike a balance between technological precision and atmosphere.

Test Site's inquiry into atomic science and historical trauma is informed by his childhood in the desert steppe of eastern Washington State near the Hanford plutonium site. During the Cold War, Hanford produced about 60% of the plutonium for the US nuclear arsenal. Nearly 1000 of these weapons were exploded in underground tests at Nevada Test Site, just 65 miles northwest of Las Vegas.

LoPresti's paintings reflect a personal grappling with the history of his hometown, and the hallowed beauty of the deserts of the American West.

About the Artist:

Eric LoPresti (b. 1971) makes paintings that investigate the cultural after effects of geopolitical conflict and its associated landscapes. Recent solo exhibitions include "No Blue Skies" (Kunsthalle Galapagos, NYC), "Different Country" (Like the Spice, 2011, NYC) and "Afterglow" (Washington State University, 2010). LoPresti holds a BA in Cognitive Science from the University of Rochester and an MFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art. He lives and works in Brooklyn.

This exhibit is free to the public. Please visit www.natioanlatomictestingmuseum.org for details.

The National Atomic Testing Museum, 755 East Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, NV 89119, at 702-794-5151. The Museum is open 7 days a week.