

Neither Devils Nor Divines

September 14 through October 13, 2019

Opening reception Saturday, September 14, 5 - 8 pm

Mother Gallery is pleased to present our first two-person exhibition, *Neither Devils Nor Divines*, with work by Mark Thomas Gibson and Rebecca Morgan. Included in the show are new large scale drawings by Gibson and drawings, paintings, and ceramics by Morgan. The show will run from 14 September through 13 October 2019. Mother Gallery is located on the ground floor of 1154 North Avenue in Beacon, NY.

Mark Thomas Gibson and Rebecca Morgan are two American artists who employ the language of comics and graphic novels to explore the representation of otherness in the United States. Together we pause to look beyond polarizing narratives, into forgotten histories, and towards a new perspective. To that end, we borrow the title of this exhibition from a line in a poem that flew to space on the *Orion* spacecraft, "A Brave And Startling Truth," by Maya Angelou.

In a respite from his recent furious black and white drawings, Gibson processes past events after a visit to his home state of Florida. Five looming color wash self-portraits depict a black man's legs in various states of wipeout—evoking surrender, but only for a moment. In "Smooth Sailing," a party boat named *fuckd* twinkles on as water spurts from the vessel, legs dangle overboard, and a torn white flag waves in the moonlight. As an artist who wields the comic as a tool for social justice, Gibson takes space to regroup and ponder uncharted routes toward utopia.

Born in central Pennsylvania, Morgan usurps power by subverting stereotypes associated with historically marginalized ethnic whites. Simultaneously charming and horrifying, her characters exist in a state of blissful idleness—ignoring social convention, they seek freedom in the thicket. The small candy colored painting "Granny Huffer," is beautifully rendered but quickly cuts deep, illuminating a harsh reality. In her paintings, drawings, and ceramics, Morgan explores the reverence and also the repulsion that come with the territory of home.

Mother Gallery is open Saturday and Sunday, from 1pm to 6pm and by appointment during closed hours. For further information and/or photographs, please call 845 236 6039 or email info@mothergallery.art

Mark Thomas Gibson received his BFA from The Cooper Union in 2002 and his MFA from Yale School of Art in Painting/Printmaking in 2013 where he received the Ely Harwood Schless Memorial Fund Award. In 2016, Gibson co-curated the exhibition Black Pulp! with William Villalongo, which has traveled from Yale to the International Print Center New York (IPCNY), University of South Florida and Wesleyan University. The exhibition was also reviewed by The New York Times and Art in America. In 2016, Gibson released his first book, *Some Monsters Loom Large*, with the support of an E-Grant from the Foundation of Contemporary Arts. The book was recently reissued in a second edition in partnership with IPCNY. Gibson's second book, *Early Retirement*, was released in 2017 with Edition Patrick Frey, Zurich, CH. *Early Retirement* was acquired by the Metropolitan Museum of Art's permanent collection. Gibson is represented by Fredericks Freiser Gallery, New York City and Loyal Gallery, Stockholm, Sweden.

Rebecca Morgan received a BA from Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania and her MFA from Pratt Institute, NY. Press for her work includes The New York Times, Time Out New York, Hyperallergic, ARTnews, Whitehot Magazine, Beautiful Decay, Artslant, Juxtapoz Magazine, The Huffington Post, Paper Magazine, Hyperallergic, and Berlin's Lodown Magazine. She is the recipient of residencies at the John Michael Kohler Arts Center, the Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, The Watershed Center for Ceramic Arts Residency, a Vermont Studio Center full fellowship, and the George Rickey Residency at Yaddo, among others. Morgan has exhibited widely in the United States and abroad, with recent exhibitions at Western Exhibitions, IL; Mana Contemporary, NJ; Greenpoint Terminal Gallery, NY; The Vancouver Art Gallery, Canada; The Hole, NY; MRS Gallery, NY; Marinaro Gallery, NY; Hashimoto Contemporary, CA; Woodstock Byrdcliffe Guild, NY; Fisher Parrish Gallery, NY; Woskob Family Gallery at Penn State, PA; Knoll Galerie, Austria; Richard Heller Gallery, CA; Children's Museum of Art, NY; and SPRING/BREAK art fair, New York, NY. Morgan is represented by Asya Geisberg Gallery, New York City.