

Joshua Liner Gallery

548 W. 28th Street, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10001
212.244.7415 joshualinergallery.com

For immediate release and listing:

Tristram Lansdowne

Refuge

February 13–March 13, 2010

Opening reception, Gallery II: Saturday, February 13, 6–9 PM

January 26, 2010 New York, NY -- Joshua Liner Gallery is pleased to present *Refuge*, an exhibition of new paintings in watercolor by the Canadian artist Tristram Lansdowne. This is Lansdowne's first solo show with the gallery.

Lansdowne's paintings of architectural ruins focus on themes of permanence, decay, and function inherent in constructed environments. Depicted with the delicacy of Roman frescoes after millennia of wear, these palimpsests carry traces of past lives, such as weathered billboards, chipped paint, graffiti, political campaign posters, or electrical wiring. The lightness of Lansdowne's watercolors imbues these glimpses into the ravages of time with a gentle patina. Yet there's ambiguity in his approach. An idealistic view of the past is juxtaposed with the emotional vacancy of urban decay, a circumspect view of human progress in which outmoded architectural ideas mix with discarded pieces of the landscape.

In this new suite of fifteen medium- to large-sized works on paper, Lansdowne depicts decrepit houses, buildings, and barns atop subterranean layers of disparate, sometimes unrelated material and mysterious cavities. These incongruous structures include *Sub Comfort*, a rickety house with TV and mattress in the basement. In *The Bilder*, a majestic old barn sits atop the skeletal frame of a wooden galleon. *Brush Park* situates a boarded-up and crumbling brick edifice above a subterranean cave with access to a body of water. Painted in cross-section like natural history specimens—each building and its lower regions isolated against a pristine field of white paper—these structures have the feel of old teeth, worn down with the rotting network of root, gum, and bone exposed. Their clinical beauty and uncanny combinations make their poignancy not only palatable but also strangely beguiling.

Born in 1983, Tristram Lansdowne studied visual arts at the University of Victoria and received a BFA degree from Ontario College of Art & Design in Toronto, where he currently lives and works. Solo exhibitions of his work include: *New Works*, Le Gallery, Toronto, Ontario (2009); *Structural Integrity*, Le Gallery (2008); and *Beautiful Decay*, Winchester Galleries, Victoria, British Columbia (2007). Selected group exhibitions include: *Le Cinq: 5th Anniversary Exhibition*, Le Gallery, Toronto (2009); *Behold! – Contemporary Perspectives on Canadian Landscape Practice*, Ontario College of Art & Design, Toronto (2007); and *Young Romantics*, Gallery 1313, Toronto (2007). In 2007 Lansdowne received the Julius Griffith Award presented by the Canadian Society of Painters in Water Colour.

Joshua Liner Gallery, located in New York City's Chelsea district, presents an exciting roster of young and emerging artists from the West and East coasts, Asia, and Europe.

Also on view, in Gallery I: Tat Ito + Hiro Kurata, *From Kojiki to Modern Heroism*, February 13–March 13.

For more information, please visit www.joshualinergallery.com, or contact Tim Strazza at 212.244.7415 or tim@joshualinergallery.com.



1. *The Bilder* Watercolor on paper 40 x 48 in. 2009
2. *Brush Park* Watercolor on paper 50 x 40 in. 2009
3. *Sub Comfort* Watercolor on paper 42 x 34 in. 2009