

For immediate release and listing:

Travis Louie

Curious Myths

July 10–August 7, 2010

Opening reception, Gallery II: Saturday, July 10, 6–9 PM

New York, NY June 15, 2010 -- Joshua Liner Gallery is pleased to present *Curious Myths*, an exhibition of new paintings by New York artist Travis Louie. This is Louie's first solo show with the gallery.

Travis Louie's acrylic-on-panel paintings are whimsical portraits of bizarre beings, most of them inspired by a youthful fascination with "Atomic Age" sci-fi and horror movies, circus sideshows, and Vaudeville magic acts. Richly rendered in black and white with fine shading, the work is also influenced by the lighting and atmosphere of German Expressionist and Film Noir motion pictures.

With *Curious Myths*, a suite of 15 new, small- to medium-sized works, Louie has directed his lively journal practice of tiny drawings and narrative vignettes toward the creation of a cohesive, imaginary world styled with Victorian and Edwardian effects. This fictive zone is both cozy and creepy, inhabited by human oddities, mythical beings, and otherworldly characters that have seemingly posed for formal portraits to mark both their existence and place in society. Each image/character is uniquely loaded with ungainly charm and ample backstory. The underlying thread connecting the characters is the unusual circumstances that shape them and how they've lived.

For example, from his journal entries the artist sets the scene for *The Myth of Floaters*: "There are many misconceptions about floaters. A popular myth is that they levitate over people and sprinkle seeds that sprout into small herbs on the tops of heads with receding hairlines," depicted vividly in the painting. As for *Phineas G. Gruffin*, a one-eyed goat in double-breasted coat, Louie writes, "He was first discovered on a foggy field in the Scottish countryside. He was disguised as a sheep herder singing awful songs to cover up the sound of his shoveling for 'skumpers,' furry underground dwellers who are part potato and part vole."

Elsewhere, "a large Krampus has turned himself in for child-juggling" in *Krampus Mugshot*, offering frontal and profile views of the goofy beast with fanged underbite. In other works, a man is cursed by a goat, an engine driver can't stop vibrating in his sleep, and another figure overcomes his phobia of spiders... all told with Louie's knack for evoking narrative through the visual. To achieve the dramatic mood in his paintings, Louie works in a strict palette of black and white or limited color on plate-finish illustration board or finely sanded and primed wood panels.

Born in 1968 in Queens, NY, Travis Louie received a BFA from Pratt Institute and currently lives and works in Red Hook, Brooklyn. Selected solo exhibitions include: *Strange Grooming Habits*, Copro Nason Gallery, Santa Monica, CA (2009) and *Unusual Neighbors*, Fuse Gallery, New York (2008). Group exhibitions include: *Kokeshi*, Japanese American National Museum, Los Angeles (2009); *World on Fire* (curated by will.i.am), Pacific Electric Lofts, Los Angeles (2009); *The New Mythology*, Dorothy Circus Gallery, Rome (2008); and *Hard Left*, Merry Karnowsky Gallery, Berlin (2008)

Joshua Liner Gallery, located in New York City's Chelsea Arts district, presents an exciting roster of established and emerging artists from North America, Asia, and Europe.

Also on view, in Gallery I: Sylvia Ji, *Las Adelitas*, July 10–August 7.

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



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