

MATTEAWAN GALLERY

Christopher Albert

Harbor

October 11 – November 2, 2014

Opening reception Saturday, October 11, 6-9 pm

Matteawan Gallery is pleased to present Christopher Albert: *Harbor*. The paintings and drawings in the exhibition are inspired by the artist's visits to Geneva, Switzerland in 1992 and 2012. This is Albert's first solo exhibition at Matteawan Gallery. In 2013 his work was included in the group exhibitions *Drive-Thru* and *The UV Portfolio*.

For Albert, the show's title *Harbor* refers to things that we hold on to, as well as things that have a hold on us. It also refers to an actual harbor in Geneva, Switzerland where Albert spent many lakeside hours in 1992 observing and listening to the moored boats. The experience made such an impression on him that he decided to return twenty years later in 2012 on a self-imposed artist residency to revisit the city, his memories, and the work he made at that earlier time. The paintings in the exhibition are based on the shape of the harbor in Geneva, and the works on paper loosely allude to the coat of arms of the city. Both bodies of work are filled with numerous personal references from his time spent there. The past informs his paintings in other ways: Albert cut apart an older large painting to make the canvases for this new body of work. The canvases have been painted over, but some of the original image remains, thus harboring the residue of an earlier work.

Albert's work contains many layers of meaning, often referring to cryptic personal details, art history, his own previous work, and to things around us, such as household objects, consumer culture, or clothing. He tends to use unusual materials in his art, including used paint rollers, granola boxes, and hamburger wrappers. His work is often part of a larger series, sometimes lasting several years in the making, in which he experiments and explores a theme or process. Albert usually has several bodies of work in progress at the same time. His artistic practice has a strong communal nature. He has organized projects like *kork*, a gallery/project space on a bulletin board above the photocopier in the offices of an accounting firm in Poughkeepsie, NY. He also curated a project called *Crotch* on a large tree in his front yard for which artists created site-specific installations in the "Y" formed by two large branches. Other projects include the blog *Maykr* and the *Dead Hare Radio Hour*, an art-related podcast.

Christopher Albert grew up in Colorado and currently lives in Beacon, NY. In August 2014 his work was included in the exhibition *Salon des Refuse*, curated by Thomas Huber at the Garrison Art Center in Garrison, NY. In recent years his work was featured in solo exhibitions at Daniel Aubry Gallery and Go North Gallery, both in Beacon, NY, as well as group exhibitions at Matteawan Gallery; Edge Gallery, Denver, CO; Imogen Holloway Gallery, Saugerties, NY; and *bau*, Beacon, NY. Albert has participated in artist residencies at Eastern Education Foundation, Norton Island, NY, and Littleworth Glen, Sea Cliff, NY.

Gallery hours are Friday and Saturday from 12-5 and Sunday 12-4. For additional information please contact Karlyn Benson at info@matteawan.com or 845-440-7901.