

MATTEAWAN GALLERY

Scott Daniel Ellison

Green Moon

April 12 - May 4, 2014

Opening reception Saturday, April 12, 6-9 pm

Matteawan Gallery is pleased to present Scott Daniel Ellison: *Green Moon*. The exhibition runs through May 4, 2014 and features recent paintings in oil and acrylic. Scott Daniel Ellison's work suggests a storybook world that is mysterious and frightening, but also darkly humorous. His most recent work focuses on his childhood in Warwick, NY, and contains natural imagery, animals, as well as an assortment of strange creatures. The title of the exhibition comes from the painting *Green Moon*, whose glowing green orb and triangular pine trees exemplify the eerie, ethereal quality of much of the work in the show.

Scott Daniel Ellison's work is inspired by many disparate sources, including the photographers Diane Arbus and Ralph Eugene Meatyard, obscure horror movies, early goth/heavy metal imagery, Scandinavian folk art and folklore, outsider art, and Native American sculpture. Ellison grew up in a suburban/rural environment with cornfields, woodlands, and meadows, and spent a great deal of time exploring the outdoors as a child. His paintings are filled with familiar animals that have otherworldly characteristics. For example, in *Bat*, a white bat stands in profile within an oval outline against a dark background. It is no ordinary bat, but perhaps a mythological creature. There is a timelessness to much of Ellison's imagery: it is both primitive and modern at the same time.

Ellison's paintings are sparse and enigmatic; they suggest a narrative, but the story is never completely resolved. His use of familiar imagery in an unfamiliar setting places the viewer in an uncertain or precarious situation. His work seems to allude to myths and stories whose meaning is lost. There is no moral ending, just ambiguity and the unknown.

Scott Daniel Ellison's paintings have been shown extensively in the United States as well as in Sweden. He was awarded a Fellowship in Painting from the New York Foundation for the Arts in 2012, and he had a solo show at Pulse/Miami in 2010. He is currently represented by ClampArt in New York City. His first monograph: *Iowa, Ohio*, has recently been published by Schilt Books. Ellison received an MFA from SUNY Purchase, Purchase, NY. He currently lives in Cold Spring, NY.