

MATTEAWAN GALLERY

Steve Rossi

Differential Ratio

April 21 - May 20, 2018

Opening reception Saturday, April 21, 6-8 pm

Matteawan Gallery is pleased to present Steve Rossi: Differential Ratio, an exhibition of works on paper and sculpture. This is Rossi's first exhibition at the gallery. There will be an opening reception on Saturday, April 21, 6-8 pm and the show runs through May 20.

Steve Rossi's recent collages address current political issues in the United States by juxtaposing disparate images that are associated with the left and the right in American politics. A woman protester holding a "future is female" sign stands on a monster truck as it crushes a smaller car. In a related work, a monster truck lies upside down as if rolling over in submission, while a ladder, representative of success and opportunity faces away going nowhere. The background image of a white doily is a symbol of home and tradition, as well as the sun or a celestial body, and it seems to question our roles at home and in the universe. Rossi's collages call attention to the cultural and political differences that are tearing our country apart during this strange and unsettling Trumpian political moment. Yet within these disorienting spaces a context is presented where dialogue between opposing viewpoints can occur.

Rossi's collages are composed of laser printed found images taken from the internet, paper doily stencils, and spray paint. Other works in the exhibition are pencil drawings of ladders that are either ascending or descending, appearing and disappearing through a dense fog created by the white of the paper. The ladder has been a motif in his work for several years and was inspired by the non-hierarchical organizational structure of the Occupy Wall Street movement. For Rossi, "the symbol of a ladder is drawn upon extensively to question value systems and 'the ladder of success' as it relates to the egalitarian nature of the American dream, personal aspirations, collective losses, and the spaces in between."

Also included in the show are two small bronze cast ladder sculptures. These works are castings of cardboard models for larger ladder works. Throughout his artistic practice, Rossi addresses issues and ideas related to systems of social organization, the hand-made and the mass-produced, permanence and ephemerality, and notions of community and shared experience in contemporary culture.

Steve Rossi's work has been exhibited in numerous museums and galleries, including the Jules Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art, Auburn, AL; the Fine Art Gallery at Westchester Community College, Valhalla, NY; Wassaic Project, Wassaic, NY; Gallery Aferro, Newark, NJ; Rockland Center for the Arts, Nyack, NY; Queens Museum, Open Engagement Conference, Queens, NY; Bronx Art Space, Bronx, NY; Art in Odd Places, New York, NY; Dorsky Curatorial Projects, LIC, NY; NURTUREart, Brooklyn, NY; and the Center for Contemporary Art, Bedminster, NJ. In 2018 he was awarded a residency at the Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, VT. Rossi is currently an adjunct professor at Parsons School of Design and at Westchester Community College. He received his BFA from Pratt Institute and his MFA from the State University of New York at New Paltz. He grew up in Pittsburgh, PA and currently lives in Beacon, NY.

For additional information please contact Karlyn Benson at info@matteawan.com.