

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE HALSEY INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART PRESENTS *MARC TRUJILLO: AMERICAN PURGATORY*

On view: August 25 – October 7, 2017

CHARLESTON, SC – The [Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art](http://www.halsey.cofc.edu) at the College of Charleston presents a solo exhibition called *Marc Trujillo: American Purgatory* that will be on view from August 25 – October 7, 2017. *American Purgatory* features more than 30 paintings by the Los Angeles-based painter Marc Trujillo.

The paintings of Marc Trujillo portray quotidian scenes: fast food restaurants, big box store aisles, the long terminal corridors of airports, and so on. The scenes are remarkably unremarkable. In their ubiquitous nature, the paintings present an anti-place: scenes that refer not to a specific place, but to uncannily similar tableaus that unfold everyday in communities across America. While Trujillo models his paintings after specific locations, usually in the Los Angeles area, his scenes appear strikingly similar to viewers' own relationships with local commerce. His paintings critique a hallmark of modern capitalism: one that aims to recreate identical commercial experiences across the country.



Trujillo's work is also influenced by his interest in Flemish landscape painting. The expansive skies in his works reflect the panoramic views in Johannes Vermeer's *View of Delft*, 1661 or the more imaginative *Landscape with the Flight into Egypt*, c. 1650, by Aelbert Cuyp. Like Vermeer's canvas, which offers a contemporaneous view of a growing city of Delft, Trujillo's paintings explore our own ever-changing—and increasingly homogenous—landscape.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a brochure featuring an essay by Robert Storr. Currently a professor at Yale University School of Art, Storr was formerly Curator of Painting and Sculpture at the Museum of Modern Art, New York from 1990-2002 and visual director of the Venice Biennale from 2005-2007.

Correlating events during the exhibition include:

Opening Reception, Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art

Friday August 25, 6:30-8:00pm

"What happened to the American Scene? Realism since 1980"

Public lecture by Robert Storr, Quattlebaum Artist-in-Residence

Thursday, September 14, 7:00pm

Recital Hall, Simons Center for the Arts, 54 St. Philip Street

Artist talk: Marc Trujillo in conversation with Robert Storr

Saturday, September 16, 2:00pm



Halsey Institute Galleries

These events are free and open to the public.

ABOUT MARC TRUJILLO

Marc Trujillo is originally from Albuquerque, New Mexico and currently resides in Los Angeles. He received his B.A. from the University of Texas at Austin and his M.F.A. from the Yale University School of Art, where he received the Ely Harwood Schless Memorial Fund Prize as well as the Ellen Battell Stoeckel Trust Fellowship. In 2001, Trujillo received the Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Award, and in 2008 he received the John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship and the Rosenthal Family Foundation Award in Art from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He has been featured in exhibitions around the United States and currently shows with Hirschl + Adler Modern in New York and Chris Winfield Gallery in Carmel, CA. His work is in numerous public and private collections including the Long Beach Museum, Long Beach, CA; and the New Britain Museum of Art, New Britain, CT.

ABOUT THE HALSEY INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART:

The Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art at the College of Charleston provides a multidisciplinary laboratory for the production, presentation, interpretation, and dissemination of ideas by innovative visual artists from around the world. As a non-collecting museum, we create meaningful interactions between adventurous artists and diverse communities within a context that emphasizes the historical, social, and cultural importance of the art of our time.

Location of the Halsey Institute: The Marion and Wayland H. Cato Jr. Center for the Arts
161 Calhoun Street, 1st Floor (on the corner of St. Philip & Calhoun Streets), Charleston, SC, 29401

Parking: Available in the St. Philip and George Street Garages

Gallery hours: Monday – Saturday, 11:00AM – 4:00PM (Open until 7:00PM on Thursdays) during exhibitions, or by appointment. *FREE and OPEN to the public*

Tours: Guided group tours are offered through the Halsey Institute’s Looking to See program. Contact Maya McGauley at mccauleym@cofc.edu for inquiries.

For more information: Contact the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art by calling (843) 953-HICA (4422) or visiting www.halsey.cofc.edu.

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