



The Shooting Gallery 839 Larkin Street San Francisco, CA 94109 (P) 415 931 8035

www.shootinggallerysf.com

Marks

New Works by Aaron Nagel

Opening Reception: March 6th, 2010, from 7-11 pm.

Show runs through: March 27th, 2010, and is open to the public.

The Shooting Gallery is proud to present *Marks: New Works* by Aaron Nagel. This exhibition is a reaction to organized religion, using lusty women to symbolize a new order of saints. Please join us for the opening reception of *Marks* on Saturday, March 6th, 2010, from 7-11 pm.

Marks is Aaron Nagel's largest and most cohesive body of work to date. The eleven oil paintings in this series use imagery of youthful women in the nude, often impaled by archery arrows. These figures embody Catholic martyrs such as St. Sebastian, offering atheists and skeptics an alternative to traditional religious symbolism. Although the women are naked and impaled their facial expression and body language is unaffected. Standing tall with transfixed eyes, the figures' hands are often dripping with black paint to represent a guilty and nefarious past. As Aaron is inspired by the contrast between power and the fragility of the human body, *Marks* is infused with imagery that is at once calm and violent.

A large part of Nagel's process is to seek out a model with a distinct look and demeanor. Because he is so selective with his models, he tends to use each one in several different paintings. Aaron photographs the women in his own home studio, later inserting text or graphic elements in a digital comp. He then meticulously lays down the line work onto canvas, taking measurements to ensure that the composition is balanced. The oil paint is then applied in thin layers to reveal a warm, highly rendered figure and stark background. Although self-taught, Nagel has developed a regimented painting process that shows a strong visual bond between his finished works.

Within the past year, this Oakland based artist has exhibited in Florida's Redletter 1 Gallery and San Francisco's D-Structure. Nagel is also the man behind Two Twenty Two Design Studio, a web design firm that he founded in 2003.

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