

DAVID B SMITH GALLERY

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Gregory Euclide, *New Works*

September 15 – October 15, 2011

Opening Reception: Saturday, September 17, 7–10 pm

Free and open to the public. Artist in attendance.

DENVER – David B. Smith Gallery is proud to present a solo exhibition of new works and a video installation by Gregory Euclide, opening on September 15 and continuing through October 15, 2011. In this new series, Euclide moves his artistry to a new level while exploring the tensions, confusion, and contradictions between pristine nature and the culture in which we live. He continues to ask how we can simultaneously preserve the environment and maintain the benefits of a modern lifestyle.

Euclide poses these questions in the form of increasingly complex and engaging relief works. The compositions contain a mixture of landscape images, painted on paper and shaped into three-dimensional sculptures. The wrinkled sheets of paper that are the foundation of these works carry a blend of imagery containing picturesque landscapes drawn from memory, photo transfers based on nature photography, and areas of raw paint. Euclide integrates actual artifacts from the land, such as geranium leaves and fungus, and places them in juxtaposition with found, inorganic materials, such as styrofoam (used to represent strata) or plastic bags (delicately reformed to represent trees). It is this tension between the realistic and the representational, the pristine and the changed, which makes the work so engaging.

The exaggerated folds of thick paper transform the traditional landscape images into a dimensional topography that should be viewed from a variety of perspectives. These new terrains — painted on both sides and containing hidden vignettes and small treasures — encourage the kind of exploration one might experience in nature, rather than in a traditional landscape painting, and invoke a mindset of investigation, discovery, and imagination. The exceptional craftsmanship and detail, clear artistic ability and skill, and uniqueness of the presentation combine to create individual and intriguing works of art.

One of the works on display in the exhibition is *Untitled*, the inside album cover artwork for the recently released album *Bon Iver* by Bon Iver. It was also featured on the cover of "Calgary," the group's first album single.

The artist's first dedicated publication, *Gregory Euclide*, will be available at the end of the exhibition in October. This 96-page hardcover book is printed and bound in the United States, and published by David B. Smith Gallery.

Please join us on Saturday, September 17th from 7–10 pm, to meet Gregory Euclide and view these unusual landscapes.

About the Artist

Gregory Euclide is an artist and teacher living in the Minnesota River Valley. His reverence for the natural world originates from his childhood in rural Wisconsin, where he developed an appreciation for experience in the land. The interconnectedness of the environment and culture has led Euclide to an exploration of how landscape (a way of viewing the land) is tied to the actual treatment and use of land.

Euclide received his MFA from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, and was awarded two Minnesota State Arts Board Artist Initiative Grants through the National Endowment for the Arts, and a Jerome Foundation Residency through the Blacklock Nature Sanctuary. His work was featured in *Badlands: New Horizons in Landscape at MASS MoCA* (March 2008-April 2009) and is currently included in the exhibition *Otherworldly* at the Museum of Arts and Design in New York. Euclide will also be on exhibit at the Hunterdon Art Museum in Clinton, New Jersey in the October exhibition *Deconstructing Nature*, and in the exhibition *Small Worlds*, opening in November at the Toledo Museum of Art in Ohio.

About David B. Smith Gallery

David B. Smith Gallery is Denver's venue for compelling contemporary art. Since its founding in 2007, the Gallery has been committed to presenting intelligent and culturally relevant exhibitions featuring work from some of today's most dynamic artists with growing international reputations. Through participation in leading art fairs and extensive media coverage, David Smith has cultivated a strong regional, national, and international collector audience. The Gallery was recently called an "art magnet that never disappoints." *The New York Times* hailed the gallery as offering "an exciting contrast of cutting edge works." In addition to its curatorial program, David B. Smith maintains an active publishing division, which produces limited edition artist prints and monographs.