

Tertium Quid: *Allyson Glenn*

November 30th, 2015 – January 8th, 2016
McKinley Arts & Culture Center - **East Gallery**
925 Riverside Drive, Reno, Nevada 89503
Monday-Friday 8:00 am-5:00 pm



East Gallery at McKinley Arts & Culture Center is proud to host International artist and University of Saskatchewan assistant professor Allyson Glenn. Glenn is a figurative painter, specializing in portraiture and human form. She uses figurative narratives to examine social intimacy, emotion, isolation, and identity. *Tertium Quid* is an installation composed of thirty-five drawings on paper that were produced in conjunction with the series *Catalyst* and *Human Animal*. This exhibition utilizes framing devices and spacing considerations to generate a sense of time. The intent of this installation is to evoke the question “What conceptual outcomes occur when one image is juxtaposed with another?”

<http://allysonglenn.com/>

Description:

The title of the exhibition *Tertium Quid* by definition can be described as an unidentified third element in combination with two known ones. The phrase was first coined by the philosopher Plato, and since then has been adapted to a variety of instances through geology, theology, and the arts. In the early twentieth century, *Tertium Quid* was used to describe innovations in film editing, more specifically when film director Sergei Eisenstein applied his theory of montage theory in *Battleship Potemkin* (1925). In order to create the *Odessa Staircase* scene, Eisenstein assembled focused and zoomed out viewpoints to elongate the perception of time. These were then sped up or slowed down to generate intensity. Many scenes focused in on the faces of the protagonists, offering an immediate emotional connection to the characters. Some scenes showcase minimal, simple objects to offer metaphor. The phrase *Tertium Quid* has been used by many critics and writers to describe how Eisenstein not only collided images but also generated a new kind of engagement with the audience. Today, the application of these techniques continue to be used in motion film and have expanded to other artistic mediums such as illustration, animation, and graphic novels.

The exhibition *Tertium Quid* presents thirty-five drawings on paper. Inspired by montage theory, the installation employs framing devices and spacing considerations in order to generate a sense of time. These drawings are also assembled and juxtaposed together to widen the possibilities of engagement and semiotics. The intent of the project is to evoke the question “what conceptual outcomes occur when one image is juxtaposed with another?” In order to assist the viewer on this journey, symbolism, metaphor, and signs are used throughout the narrative. Each fragment offers insight into the complexity and continuum of the story, luring the viewer into the abyss of catastrophe to the fortitude of resolution.

For this exhibition, twenty preparation drawings were selected from the project *Allegory*, a painting project composed of two series entitled *Catalyst* and the *Human Animal* that share the overarching theme of ‘conflict’. Another fifteen drawings were developed to complete the story. The series *Catalyst* explores the artist’s personal experience with oil contamination, offering insight into the psychological impact and the deeper meaning of how people relate to the environment. While the series *Human Animal* showcases primal behavior—not often associated with civilized society—and highlights connections to the primal self and offers insight into the complexity of contemporary events and conflicts.

McKinley Arts and Culture Center hosts two gallery spaces. Located on the river walk, McKinley Galleries East and West show talented artists from the Great Basin and beyond. To learn more please visit: <http://renoculture.com>

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Free of charge to the public

For more information please contact City of Reno Public Art at 775.334.6264 or publicart@reno.gov