

Graham Guerra: *We know no time when we were not as now*

29 October - 21 November 2009

Alpha and Omega, my most recent series of drawings, represents an amalgamation of both ideologically and ascetically conflicted subject matter and media. Alpha and Omega is an "a la mode" Genesis seen through a prism of popular science and materialism. Alpha and Omega elevates and merges the tangible fruits of our progressive secular culture with the spiritual ideals and imagery of a previous more pious century. The result of this conflation is a group of images that are as selfconfounding as our modern experience.

The Kuzweilian idea, that the legacy of human intelligence will shape the destiny of the universe is the philosophical point of departure for a contemporary and profane creation fantasy that forms the diffuse narrative arch of my works. Aside from the obvious references to Catholicism Alpha and Omega also refers to human intelligence and corporeality as the beginning and end of creation. This idea is concisely portrayed in a drawing from the series entitled Entropic Skulls. That piece depicts of two human skulls locked in a Mobius strip of self-reflection, which serves as a kind of seed or egg for the rest of the forms in the series.

These charcoal and graphite miscreations are birthed via a host of digital photographic and 3D rendering technologies, which I employ to generate virtual models. The resulting models or "renders" are the basis for the large-scale drawings that compose the chimerical cosmology of Alpha and Omega.

Catholic art, specifically the ecstatic depictions of Mary in paintings such as the rapturous Assumption of the Virgin by Poussin and Tiepolo is the inspiration for many of the Alpha and Omega images. Yet, my life long fascination with Catholic art and symbolism is not the only muse for my work, Alpha and Omega is equally inspired by my interest in post-humanist manifestos, astrobiological theories, and cosmogonic mythologies. Though my images have an intentional resemblance to theistic and devotional imagery they are also impious celebrations of a material and human centered universe.

Graham Guerra 2009

Graham Guerra completed a Bachelor of Arts (Fine Arts) Honours at Honors Rhode Island School of Design/ European Honors Program Providence, RI/ Rome, Italy in 1998 before completing a Master Of Fine Art Yale University School of Art New Haven, CT. In 2008 **Guerra** participated in a residency at WARDLOW Art residency in Melbourne. Before that **Guerra** has exhibited extensively in New York in commercial galleries as well as at Art Fairs. Guerra Has also been invited in international curated group shows.

For images and further information please contact: olivia@nelliecastangallery.com

