



NEW YORK SEATTLE

ARTFIX*daily*
Curated Art World News & Exclusives

Contemporary Artist Ethan Murrow Completes Panoramic Wall Drawing at the Cahoon Museum of American Art

JUNE 22, 2021



Ethan Murrow, *The Greenhouse*, 2021, high flow acrylic on wall, 75 feet. Photo by Julia Featheringill.

Boston-based artist Ethan Murrow and a team of assistants have created a site-specific installation entitled *The Greenhouse* at the Cahoon Museum of American Art. On view through October 3, this panoramic wall drawing spans the entire 75 feet of the museum's Trustee Gallery and draws inspiration from old growth forests that once existed on Cape Cod.

The primary subject of *The Greenhouse* is a massive felled oak tree, a cautionary reference to the effects of colonization and development on the Cape's natural environment. In a testament to nature's resilience and regeneration, the dead tree plays host to sprouts of new growth. A hybrid treehouse/greenhouse (perhaps an earlier failed attempt to utilize the tree, perhaps a sign of new human intervention) has a

Winston Wächter Fine Art, Inc.

530 West 25th Street, New York, NY 10001 **TEL** [212] 255 2718 **FAX** [212] 255 2719 **EMAIL** nygallery@winstonwachter.com www.winstonwachter.com

Winston Wächter Fine Art LLC

203 Dexter Avenue North, Seattle, WA 98109 **TEL** [206] 652 5855 **FAX** [206] 652 5856 **EMAIL** gallery@winstonwachter.com www.winstonwachter.com



NEW YORK SEATTLE

window looking out onto an alternate landscape, creating a potential vision of a hopeful future.

To create the mural, Murrow worked with a team of artists over five days using high flow acrylic paint and refillable pens drawing directly onto gallery walls. Murrow explains that this installation is “an homage to the massive oaks that once stood on Cape Cod before being cut wholesale. This massive drawing is intended to be a testament to the ability of plants to outlast the invasive actions of human hands.” Murrow asks us, “How do we use and abuse resources? How can we work closely and collaboratively with plants to build sustainability?”

Murrow will also donate trees for the Cahoon Museum property. While the wall drawing is temporal in nature and will be painted over at the end of the exhibition, the gift of live trees will remain past the imagery that honors them.

Partnered with the installation, *The Greenhouse*, Murrow created two new color drawings centering around an unusual figure engaged in open-ended activities. Where the large-scale wall drawing has an optimistic view of new growth and cyclical repair, these smaller drawings are intended to stand as cautionary tales and uncertain narrative beginnings. The drawings feature a mysterious character scrambling through the woods, juggling massive terrariums of rare plants, including bonsais. The artist leaves the story and the figure’s intentions open; his unknown role could be that of a thief, protector, irresponsible gardener, or thoughtful propagator.

About Ethan Murrow:

Ethan Murrow is Professor of the Practice and Chair, Painting and Drawing at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Tufts University. He received his BA from Carleton College and his MFA from The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Recent solo museum shows include the Institute of Contemporary Art Boston, The Currier Museum of Art, Museum of Contemporary Art Jacksonville, and the Clay Center in West Virginia. Murrow is represented by Filles Du Calvaire in Paris, Slete Gallery in Los Angeles, and Winston Wächter Fine Art in New York City and Seattle. He was recently part of an Artist Residency at the Expedia Group, Inc. headquarters in Seattle and completed multi-story wall drawings on the themes of engineering, experimentation and risk.

Murrow was awarded the Stein Emerging Artist Prize by MOCA Jacksonville, participated as Artist in Residence at Facebook Inc., was a fellow at the Ballinglen Foundation in Ireland, received a Massachusetts Cultural Council Fellowship and was included in the 2013 deCordova Museum’s Biennial with a three-story wall drawing.

Winston Wächter Fine Art, Inc.

530 West 25th Street, New York, NY 10001 TEL [212] 255 2718 FAX [212] 255 2719 EMAIL nygallery@winstonwachter.com www.winstonwachter.com

Winston Wächter Fine Art LLC

203 Dexter Avenue North, Seattle, WA 98109 TEL [206] 652 5855 FAX [206] 652 5856 EMAIL gallery@winstonwachter.com www.winstonwachter.com



NEW YORK SEATTLE

His work is in many public, private, and corporate collections and has been reviewed and published widely around the world. A monograph on his work was released in 2015 with the German publisher Hatje Cantz. His film project "Dust" with Harvest Films and wife Vita Weinstein Murrow was an official selection of the 2008 New York Film Festival. www.bigpaperairplane.com

Winston Wächter Fine Art, Inc.

530 West 25th Street, New York, NY 10001 **TEL** [212] 255 2718 **FAX** [212] 255 2719 **EMAIL** nygallery@winstonwachter.com www.winstonwachter.com

Winston Wächter Fine Art LLC

203 Dexter Avenue North, Seattle, WA 98109 **TEL** [206] 652 5855 **FAX** [206] 652 5856 **EMAIL** gallery@winstonwachter.com www.winstonwachter.com