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AMERICAN

art COLLECTOR

PREVIEWS OF MAINSTREAM ARTISTS'
UPCOMING SHOWS COAST TO COAST

BONUS SCULPTURE SECTION INSIDE

MAY 2007





BANVARD AND THE ARTIC RE-PROJECTOR, GRAPHITE ON PAPER, 48 X 48"

The Collector Says . . .

"I was immediately struck by the detail and movement Ethan is able to create with graphite. I love his subjects—these characters are trying so hard to accomplish a great adventure and yet it just doesn't quite work. Although there is failure in most of the pieces, there is also so much humor. I love art that gives me something to smile about—Ethan's characters do just that."

— *Lori Uddenberg*

OVERSIZED DRAWINGS IN MURROW'S STUDIO SHOW HIS DESIRE TO GLORIFY THE MEDIUM



UPCOMING SHOW*Up to 20 works on show*

April 25 – June 8, 2007

Winston Wachter

203 Dexter Avenue N.

Seattle, WA 98109

(206) 652-5855

● SHOW LOCATION SEATTLE, WA

ETHAN MURROW

The science of fantastic fools

Ethan Murrow is at it again, doggedly documenting the exploits of his two fictional explorers, the Orson brothers, in their pursuit of scientific glory. This time, the doomed 19th century duo locates a whale pod swimming up the St. Lawrence River to Michigan. This latest obsession (theirs and Murrow's) is chronicled in *The Freshwater Narwhal Hoax*, a new drawing and video exhibition showing at Winston Wachter.

"I see a correlation between the childhood determination to succeed and an adult obsession with glory and heroism," says Murrow. "There is a point when passionate experimentation

can transform into the obstinate pursuit of monumental results. This is where my characters reside, living dangerously close to disaster, embarrassment and innovation all at once. Their actions are defined by the catastrophes and accomplishments of past explorers and inventors."

Murrow attacks his unusual subject in an innovative way. He first makes short films that establish a narrative for the exhibition and then he creates massive graphite drawings—some even 5 x 8 feet long—that tell the story on paper. The drawings are perfectly detailed, visually dense enough to carry the narrative even further than the films.

"In a variety of desolate locations, using elaborately dysfunctional props and costumes of my own design, I act the protagonist who dreams big yet will probably fall far," says Murrow. "As the central figure, I also embroil myself in a history of aspiration filled with brilliant new finds and ignorant mistakes."

Just like the fictional brothers, Murrow's exploration into the details of his own work is filled with wonderful discoveries and others that aren't quite as successful.

"I embroil myself in a history of aspiration filled with brilliant new finds and ignorant mistakes," says Murrow. "I've become more and more interested in telling stories about people obsessed

OFF OF GASPÉ, READY TO DIVE FOR THE ELUSIVE WHALE, GRAPHITE ON PAPER, 60 X 96"





THE "NARWHAL" SEARCHES FOR NARWHALS AT NIAGARA, GRAPHITE ON PAPER, 32 X 68"

and it's good that the works themselves take that in. And, I do it in this style because I also want to glorify drawings by making them larger than life."

Murrow's drawings are also influenced by his training as a traditional landscape painter and his understanding of composition and perspective.

"Being trained in that way has made me interested in technique and how that plays out in the drawings," says Murrow. "What I want to do is set things out in grand landscapes and large vistas. I also grew up on a farm playing with weird, outdated farm equipment and things I'd find in the woods. So, that interest in history comes from my upbringing as well."

Murrow's drawings have a distinct sense of nostalgia. He says that his home was always filled with old family objects like tools and furniture, giving him a love for things from this period. The characters in the story, like Murrow, are also obsessed with technological gadgets that unintentionally become part science, part fantasy.

"The characters live the line between genius and fools," says Murrow. "I like the characters to appear



WHILE READING THE EXPOSE AT THE WHALE RESEARCH STATION, BARNUM REALIZES THE HOAX IS UP, GRAPHITE ON PAPER, 72 X 57"




BANVARD AND THE WHALE METER, GRAPHITE ON PAPER, 72 X 72"

unprepared and pretty consistently doomed to failure."

Murrow is glad that collectors jump on for the ride and relish the complex and often humorous narratives he creates.

"I'm definitely someone who, when I look at work, am obsessed with content but appreciative of craft as well," he says "I want collectors to appreciate that and also understand that

the drawing is a result of the creative props, sculptures, costumes and photos that come together to lead to this traditional work of graphite on paper. Collectors also respond to the storylines and how they are linked through the narrative to these characters." ●

For a direct link to the
exhibiting gallery go to 
www.americanartcollector.com

Price Range Indicator

Our at-a-glance Price Range Indicator shows what you can expect to pay for this artist's work.

	Small	Medium	Large
2000	\$800	\$2,000	\$5,000
2007	\$3,000	\$7,000	\$12,000