

DEATH RIDES A HORSE

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I stumbled upon the work of Adam Helms while I was visiting a painting by Lucio Fontana @Marianne Boeskey's New York Gallery. After toasting the masterpiece the galleries director Serra Pradhan escorted me into the main gallery where a massive display of fantastic, pixelated boogy men, drawn with the hand of Albrecht Durer, stunned me. The entire show had been purchased enmasse by the Whitney Museum of American Art, was titled: *48 portraits* after the famed series of paintings of the same title by the great and eminent Gerhart Richter, but was the flip side of that heroic vision of masculine accomplishment and rationality. Shortly there after In Adam Helms the man I found a kindred spirit, raised in an american hinterland, exposed to the strange american cultural wilderness of the 1980's and 1990's: the drug war, the boarder war, the abortion war, religious fanaticism, the skaters, the skinheads, the punks, the drug dealers, the drug takers, the television blitz of the Gulf War (before we learned we had to number them.) I knew I was talking with someone with whom I shared a great affinity, to top it off we discovered we both had attended The Yale school of Art. Upon visiting his studio I was entranced by Helms' lair. Here his three primary fascinations were on prime display. First was his meticulous cultivation of the art of Drawing, its majical ability to transform an image into a sensual experience. His is a dedication I have yet seen matched today. The second was his affinity for the masculine mythology of the warrior. The third was the obsession with the distorting power of the lens. It appears that Adam has put a charcoal covered fingerprint on the collective face of *Fear*. The fear which is the cornerstone under the new millenium, the fear so easily used to manipulate, sway and distance us from the deep motivations and forces at work within us all. Through the act of Drawing it appears the shadows of our era have been enshrined.- Raymond Dumas, New York. 2012

Adam Helms is represented by Marianne Boeskey Gallery NYC & Grimm Gallery Amsterdam.

Watch the interview: Blow Up/The Art of Adam Helms soon @<http://www.deathridesahorse.tv>













