

SOLOMON *projects*

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For Immediate Release
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Joseph Peragine

Nature Porn, etc.

March 19 – May 1, 2010

Opening Reception: Friday, March 19, 6-8pm

Solomon Projects is pleased to present *Nature Porn, etc.* an exhibition of vibrant new paintings by Atlanta-based artist Joseph Peragine. This body of work will feature an installation of four major oil and airbrush paintings paired with smaller works employing image and text. The exhibition will be on view March 19 - May 1, 2010. An opening reception with the artist present will take place on Friday, March 19th from 6 - 8 PM.

Nature Porn, etc. continues the artist's depiction of the familiar in unexpected ways using the viewer's preconceptions within the context of the work. The humorously provocative title alludes to his presentation of fantasy worlds created through artifice. As a young boy Peragine was enthralled by the idealized display of wildlife in "nature" presented in museum dioramas. The vivid colors, meticulously staged environments, and majestic poses of grizzly bears, elk, polar bear, rhinoceros, etc. romanticize the authentic experience of natural phenomena. *Nature Porn, etc.*, like pornography, attracts the viewer by presenting a hyper-idealized state whereby the perceived reality of the situation is actually pretense. As with the experience of the museum diorama, *Nature Porn* paintings simultaneously attract and restrict entry into the space, thus presenting a persistent and strong desire for something unattainable. Complementing these works will be a grouping of smaller canvases of text and image, each containing the word "etc." The *etc.* paintings continue the themes of Peragine's last exhibition at the gallery, *Forever and Ever* (2007), presenting the enduring pursuit of the romantic facing overwhelming obstacles of the mundane.

Joseph Peragine received an MFA in 1995 from Georgia State University and a BFA in 1983 from the University of Georgia. His work has been the focus of several solo exhibitions around the country, including University of

Arizona Art Museum, Tucson, AZ (2007); a solo project at Scope Miami (2006); Cheekwood Museum of Art, Nashville, TN (2004); the Palm Beach ICA (2004) and Art in General, New York (1997). His numerous group exhibitions include Florida Atlantic University (2005); Fe Gallery, Pittsburgh, PA (2004); National Gallery of Art in Beijing, China (2001) and Nexus Contemporary Art Center, Atlanta, GA (1998). Other notable accomplishments include a Ford Foundation Grant (1982), and a prestigious five-year studio residency at the Atlanta Contemporary Art Center (1998-2002). In both 2008 Peragine's short animated film, *Rising Water*, was selected for screening at *Hollywood Freewaves* festival of experimental media arts; and in both 2005 and 2003, Peragine's animations *Pass the Ammunition* (2005) and *Three Small Deaths* (2002) won the Juror Choice Awards at the Arizona State University Art Museum Short Film and Video Festival. The artist lives and works in Atlanta. This is Peragine's fifth solo exhibition at Solomon Projects.

For further information please visit our website
<http://www.solomonprojects.com> or contact the gallery at
info@solomonprojects.com or 404.875.7100