

GEORGE BILLIS GALLERY

Contact: Jaine Heggie

MICHAEL BECK
JANUARY 26 - FEBRUARY 27, 2016

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For Release: Immediately



She's Going Places, 38x44", 2012, oil on canvas

George Billis Gallery is pleased to announce **Michael Beck** and his work at the New York location. This exhibition will run from **January 26 through February 27, 2016**. The **opening reception** will be held at the George Billis Gallery located at 525 West 26th Street between 10th and 11th avenues on **Thursday, January 28 from 6-8pm**.

The Artist writes of his works, "As a Photorealist I tend to view painting as journalistic: attempting to report what is seen precisely and accurately. The objects I paint are chosen for their sense of use and wear. They display an inherent biography or story. Typically the items are obsolete, outdated remnants of our culture that in their heyday were heralded as desirable. By placing them on a stage, brightly lit, I am putting them back in the spotlight to be examined, questioned and judged."

Many times viewers' stories will bring new insight about what an object is and how it can be seen. I give the objects drama and fresh animation through the use of light, shadow, and color. While the vibrant colors of each painting initially catch the viewer's eyes, it is the intricate network of curious shapes and shadows which create a dramatic narrative and composition within the surface. My hope is that the viewer is brought down into the landscape of color and application that I experienced while producing the piece."

Beck's sense of staging forces us to reconsider the object as celebrity, worn and aged but resplendent with biographical information. The work evokes a sense of luxury in which boundaries between reality and the reality of each painting are obliterated. The work invites viewers to conjure up narratives, even fantasies, of their own design, and the starting point is likely to be a shared memory of childhood or an idealized version of Americana. But the imagery calls for a deeper exploration of its meaning because by isolating the object it becomes decontextualized; asking the viewer to consider it as a thing of curiosity on its own.

The George Billis Gallery marks its 19th year in the Chelsea Art district and its sister gallery is located in the burgeoning gallery district of Culver City in Los Angeles. For more information, please contact the gallery via e-mail at gallery@georgebillis.com or visit our website at www.georgebillis.com



I'm Off...To My Future!, 14x22", 2012, oil on canvas

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