

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 5, 2011

Long View Gallery Presents “Homestead”

Welcoming Los Angeles-based artist, Mike Weber, back to Washington, D.C. for a solo exhibition.



“A Life Lived”, 2011, 24 x 36 x 2.5
Mixed Media on Panel, Resin Coated

January 19 – February 19, 2011

Opening Reception: Thursday, January 19, 6:30 – 8:00pm

Press Preview with the artist: Wednesday, January 18, 6:30 – 8:00pm

(please rsvp for the press preview to drew_porterfield@longviewgallery.com)

WASHINGTON, DC – Long View Gallery is pleased to announce, “Homestead,” featuring approximately 20 new mixed media works by Los Angeles artist Mike Weber. Since relocating his studio from D.C. to Los Angeles in 2010, Weber’s work continues to explore themes of spirituality and genealogy, inspiring a global audience to create connections between their memories and those of the artist, sculpted in a modern context.



long view gallery

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Mike Weber spent his childhood exploring rural farmland outside of St. Louis, Missouri. Like any inquisitive child, he was drawn to investigate the abandoned homesteads that dotted the landscape. These forgotten buildings, full of history and littered with hints of their grandiose past, left a lasting impression on the youngster. Recalling his experiences in these abandoned homes brings up mysterious childhood emotions for Weber.

“Late evenings provided the most magical experiences. The atmosphere of the home would shift as the light trickled through cracks and revealed the Victorian patterns on decaying plaster walls lined with aged wooden slats and rusted nail heads. The rays of light captured the still dust suspended in flight. Fragments of wall coverings loosened by gusts of ghostly winds would dance thru the air as if nature was setting free centuries of forgotten memories. The materials were dark, stained and rich in texture and color that had evolved, darkened and aged over centuries. This pictorial language that some would find haunting and disturbing, I found inspiring.”

It would be an understatement to call Weber’s mixed media pieces layered. The color, texture and pattern in his pieces are inspired by the artist’s memories of the abandoned homesteads. Stenciled patterns appear as light streaming through some decades-old heating grate, hand written lettering feels like a discovered colonial love letter. Often, sections of the work appear peeled back and torn, an indication of history without a full explanation of the mystery. Paint is with and without brushes, like stains collected on walls over centuries of use. But Weber does not allow the stories of his subjects to exist solely in the memory of our pasts. He modernizes the histories by placing them behind a glossy resin finish and surrounding the black and white images with colorful embellishments, translating the memory of our pasts into modern day relevance.

Weber masterfully creates a universally nostalgic emotional response. He beckons the viewer to share in his unique childhood experiences, transporting them back to the abandoned homesteads, and viewing his subjects reincarnated, full of new life and with stories to tell. In “Homestead”, Weber’s memories are given new meaning. They have become symbols of our past and long forgotten bloodlines – symbols that hold an umbilical connectivity, spanning time.

About the Artist

Mike Weber was born in February of 1975 in St. Louis, Missouri. He has degrees in Visual Communications and Computer Animation/Multimedia from Southwest Missouri State University and The Art Institute International of Dallas, TX. Weber designed and art directed broadcast graphics, animation and motion picture film in Dallas and New York City for numerous television networks, including Showtime, HBO, Comedy Central, A&E, History Channel, Nickelodeon, ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, WB and The Golf Channel. In 2001, Weber resigned from his position at Hothaus Creative, an internationally recognized television design and production firm, in order to focus on his career as a fine artist. He has since exhibited at diverse venues and is a *Spotlight Feature by The National Endowment for the Arts*. Weber was selected by the *Smithsonian Institution’s Art Curators as a 2011 nominee for the Smithsonian Artist Research Fellowship Program* and was recently selected to exhibit in the 2011 Florence Biennale in Italy. Moreover, his artwork has appeared in New York Times Style Magazine, Washington Post Magazine, National Endowment for the Arts Magazine, POPLife, Modern Luxury, Home & Design and Spaces Magazine. Weber’s work has also appeared on HGTV and Bravo TV. He currently resides in Venice, California.

Gallery Contact

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