



Keith Maddy

*Inner Flight*

June 24 – July 30, 2022

Howard Yezerksi Gallery is pleased to announce *Inner Flight*, a solo exhibition of collage work by Keith Maddy. This is the artist's second exhibition with the gallery. Maddy has taken his labor-intensive practice to a larger scale by utilizing vintage materials such as folding screens and a six-foot scroll. Smaller, more intimate narratives can be found on vintage lithographs. This new body of work invites viewers to dive into their own imagination and see where the intricate imagery leads them. An Opening Reception will be held Friday, June 24th between 5-8pm.

Keith Maddy is also a recipient of the 2022 Massachusetts Cultural Council Artist Fellowship.

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As a child, coloring books, filled with characters frozen mid-action on the page, were a retreat for me from the outside world. They offered an inner sanctuary of unfettered imagination where play and adventure, and the joy of coloring and mark making were intertwined. As an artist I continue to be drawn to this sacred place and am inspired by these vintage materials to delve deeper; extracting and transforming them into the creation of something equally vibrant and uniquely contemporary.

Since 2012 my meticulously hand cut and composed collages had focused on the aggregate, like the dense construction of a nest. Recognizable bits and pieces tangled within and only partly exposed teased the viewer's power of observation and prompted closer examination. In this new body of work all that frays apart and loosens up, revealing and exposing full or near full cutouts, opening up a narrative of clearer associations, humor, play and metaphor.

In my recent work, backdrops of nature, found on vintage prints, a scroll and folding screens, become the base of imaginary and dreamlike landscapes where characters of all sorts, liberated from vintage childhood pages, now festively parade and co-mingle in a celebration of life. The domestic origin of these background materials with their sensual color, line and content are further elements in my process of excavating, embracing and re-presenting memory. The dichotomies of East and West, old and new, high and low merge seamlessly with out of scale animals, humans and nature.

These open-ended narratives embrace the exuberance and magical world of a child's mind that possesses the ability to transform and cross barriers, to have imaginary friends and be anything or anyone; an astronaut, a cowboy, a ballerina or talking animal. Jumping, flying, swimming and playing with unobstructed freedom and superpowers comes also with inherent risks and dangers that may be right before our eyes, hiding in plain sight.

– Keith Maddy