

# DAVID KORDANSKY GALLERY

David Kordansky Gallery is pleased to present One-on-One: Ivan Morley, Sgt. Fury. An epic, large-scale thread on canvas painting, Sgt. Fury is among the most ambitious works Morley has made in any medium. The presentation will open at DavidKordanskyGallery.com this coming Wednesday, May 13, 8:00 am, Pacific Time, and will remain on view through May 20, 2020.

One-on-One: Ivan Morley, Sgt. Fury is the gallery's fourth in a series of Online Viewing Room exhibitions dedicated to a single artwork. One-on-One presentations utilize enhanced editorial content to provide an in-depth look at artists' practices and specific objects in their oeuvres. These exhibitions include statements from the artists, art-historical and cultural references, sound and video media that enrich the experience of viewing the work, as well as suggestions for further exploration.

Sgt. Fury (2020) encapsulates the dichotomies and contradictions at the heart of Morley's work, and sheds light on many facets of his three-decade career. Morley has long employed techniques by which he can circumvent standard painterly language and the associations that go along with it. In embroidery works such as Sgt. Fury, a sewing machine adds a layer of removal and dictates the ways in which Morley creates his compositions. A slow, methodical, stitch-by-stitch rhythm informs the content of the picture, as colors and shapes and images suggest others in Morley's mind. He also navigates a set of pre-existing parameters when it comes to his palette, since he is limited to the colors available to him from thread suppliers. These restrictions paradoxically give rise to a visual openness, and allow the artist to take on an incredibly wide-ranging set of themes limited only by his imagination and experience.

Sgt. Fury evolved from a series of tangential formal meditations, including still lifes of aquatic plants, and rendering a turtle and its shell. This led Morley to a host of associative trajectories, including a memory of keeping red-eared slider turtles as pets in his youth. Specifically, he recalled how one of the turtles outlasted the others and earned the moniker

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Sgt. Fury, in honor of the military hero in the Marvel comic book (1963–1981) of the same name; and then, finding Sgt. Fury motionless one day and burying him, only to wonder later if he had been merely hibernating. Mortality, pop culture, and childhood memories flow into one another like waves coming from different directions, dissolving into and deforming each other. The serious and the cartoony are woven together, as are the haunting of the past and the sensation of the present.