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thaddeus strode

in my room (fathoms and displacement)

june 7 - july 20, 2013

exhibition opening  
 june 6, 6-9 pm

We are pleased to inform you of the eleventh solo exhibition by Thaddeus Strode (\*1964) at the gallery, which will include new works by the artist and will be on view from June 7<sup>th</sup> through July 20<sup>th</sup>.

Strode has set a stage in the gallery space that is as concrete as it is complex, immersing the viewer in his artistic universe with paintings, sculptures and installations. The exhibition's title *in my room (fathoms and displacement)* is a quote from a song by the Beach Boys that refers to the central meaning of the private world and mythology that makes up Strode's artistic creations.

**The Beach Boys. *In my room* (1963)**

There's a world where I can go	Do my dreaming and my scheming	In my room
And tell my secrets to	Lie awake and pray	In my room
In my room, in my room	Do my crying and my sighing	In my room
(In my room)	Laugh at yesterday	In my room
In this world I lock out	Now it's dark and I'm alone	
All my worries and my fears	But I won't be afraid	
In my room, in my room	In my room, in my room	
(In my room)	(In my room)	

An expansive landscape in miniature finds itself in the gallery's exhibition space, with thoughts, questions and images that Strode has sketched into its structure that together with the other works in the exhibition unfold a fascinating narrative. Perched atop a pedestal in the gallery space is a beached shark made out of papier-mâché. Strode portrays him as an ambivalent creature, an awkward cartoon character that has lost any menacing power. The title of the work, *The impossibility of the physical* (2013) makes reference to Damien Hirst's 1991 sculpture that consists of a Tiger Shark conserved in formaldehyde, which Strode contrasts with his own seemingly naïve version of the fish in order to investigate the potentiality of representation and perception. The sculpture *The Drowned Sea Captain* (2013) consists of a miniature model of a horse-drawn cart, pulling the coffin of a drunken sea captain, who seems to be here on his last voyage. Added to these scenes are the auratic words of the Japanese Alpine climber Yūichirō Miura<sup>1</sup>, rendered in large yellow letters as both a prelude and requiem on one of the gallery's walls:

"The end of one thing is the beginning of another. I am a pilgrim again."

Two new large-format paintings make up *The constellation of parts which compose oneself (The mirror)*, and portray astral constellations with seemingly symbolic details. The images allow themselves to be read as complementary versions of one another, in which cryptic visions of fate seem to become illuminated. With a series of small format paintings, Strode takes up in his work the ever-present images of American cartoons and comics. The square canvases are reminiscent of album covers, from which both the round vinyl and his stories emerge.

For further information as well as image material, please contact Jan Salewski: Tel +49 30 288 772 77, mail@neugerriemschneider.com.

<sup>1</sup> At the age of 80, Yūichirō Miura was the oldest mountaineer to ever climb Mount Everest.