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TOREY THORNTON *OH STRANGE, THAT'S YOUR NAME*

19.04.14 – 10.05.2014
Opening Saturday 19 April 2014
4 pm - 9 pm



TORRI is pleased to present *Oh, Strange, That's Your Name*, a solo exhibition of recent works on paper by New York-based artist Torey Thornton.

Though perhaps best known for producing mixed-media paintings on large wooden panels, Thornton's practice is equally informed by a longstanding engagement with paper as primary medium. Developed alongside his other paintings, the results of this ongoing pursuit amount to a parallel yet distinct body of work, one whose formal ingenuity at once confirms and extends the conversations established by his previously exhibited output.

Oh, Strange marks the first time Thornton has devoted a show exclusively to this series of paintings, which characteristically find the artist combining disparate elements, ranging from portions of his own paintings and drawings to found elements like paper shopping bags, into fragmented but deliberately balanced compositions. Tearing, adhering, and layering these various materials, Thornton gradually builds a highly textured surface upon which he continues to paint, rendering vibrant, semi-abstracted landscapes and still-lives whose sense of spontaneity and invention is offset by the artist's innate sense of arrangement, palette, and medium.

As is always the case in Thornton's work, the items on display in *Oh, Strange* feel immediate but purposeful, the results deftly balancing the line between abstraction and figuration, image and object. In translating his approach to a fresh set of materials, however, they also lend a new sense of scope to his practice, reaffirming not only the inventive formal strategies that drive Thornton's output, but also the viability of even the most apparently modest materials when integrated into a progressive studio methodology.

Christopher Schreck

Torey Thornton (b. 1990, Macon, Georgia) is a multi-disciplinary artist whose work combines elements of painting, drawing, collage, and sculpture. Recent offerings include solo exhibitions at Rodi Gallery and Karma (New York) and group exhibitions at Rod Barton (London) and 247365 (New York). He lives and works in New York City.