

CIVILIAN

ART PROJECTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
April 16, 2009

CONTACT: Jayme McLellan, 202.347.0022
info@civilianartprojects.com

CIVILIAN ART PROJECTS is pleased to present two solo exhibitions of new work by Washington, D.C.-based artists Erick Jackson and Ken D. Ashton. The exhibitions will open to the public on Friday, May 1, 2009 and will be on view through June 6, 2009. **There will be an opening reception for the artists on Friday, May 1, 2009 from 7pm to 10pm.**

ERICK JACKSON – *All Night Flight*

For *All Night Flight*, Erick Jackson has created over 60 color pencil drawings plus a large-scale drawing installation of imagery plucked from adolescence and psychic memory. From B-movies, rock music culture, and late night 1980's cable television shows, Jackson takes us through his fecund memories and imagination, presenting an aesthetic disappearing from our contemporary vernacular.



Drawing from a freakishly strong memory, for months Jackson researched movies and television shows for visual equivalents of memories of exact moments lodged in his mind since childhood. The pungent seventies aesthetic of the occult; endless car chases; and bizarre children's shows of a psychedelic era shaped the artist's young mind depositing fertile material to draw from in the present day.

According to the artist, "certain stills from these works have been etched into my psyche and reappear in my artwork and music again and again. Themes of the anti-hero, danger, paranoia and beauty have remained consistent in my mind and they have defined my likes and dislikes. These impressions are not necessarily drawn from 'spooky' images but they were based in fear and wonder. Certain things just freaked you out as a kid and made you want to know more. It is this longing to know that continues to enrich the mystery."

For this exhibition, Jackson departed from his laborious painting style to the flexibility of color pencil to create an expanding body of fluid, saturated images uniquely framed and positioned on the gallery walls. From depictions of phantasms to night marauders to skateboarding and life post-apocalypse, Jackson lives up to his image-maker reputation in this ambitious exhibition.

Erick Jackson graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design in the early 1990s. He has had solo exhibitions at Civilian Art Projects, Transformer and the D.C. Arts Center. He has a forthcoming exhibition at Good Children Gallery in New Orleans and a solo exhibition at Sala Diaz in San Antonio in 2010. A musician and visual artist, he founded the band the Apes in 1999.

CIVILIAN

ART PROJECTS



KEN D. ASHTON – *The M Street Project*

For this solo exhibition of new work, Ken D. Ashton traveled M Street, a central artery in the nation's capital, which starts at the Key Bridge and ends near the National Arboretum. According to the artist, "M Street is a cross-section of the city. It goes from the old established and high-end shopping of Georgetown through downtown into lower Shaw and under the new convention center. There it passes projects into what I knew as an old artist community. It meanders across New Jersey and New York Avenues to intersect North Capitol Street and some

notorious projects. From there it is the center of a brand new area of development with new office construction and a new Metro station. It then passes the old Washington Coliseum where the Beatles had their first American concert."

Rooted in the street photography tradition, Ashton's photographic style is as much about place as it is about first person narrative. These are not objective, documentary photographs taken by a casual passerby in the city. Ashton's work is carefully considered and defined by a strong perspective where the presence of the artist is felt yet not seen in the frame. His work is poetic and conceptual, building strength from context, setting scenes of economic life-stories told through light, form, and the built world.

Ashton's work can be found in private collections including the Museum of Contemporary Photography, The Corcoran Gallery of Art and The George Washington University. His work has been featured in exhibitions at Civilian Art Projects, the Corcoran Museum; the Goethe-Institute; and Second Street Gallery in Charlottesville, VA. Publications include Common Ground: Discovering Community in 150 Years of Art, Selections from the Collection of Julia J. Norrell Collection and Reflections in Black: A History of Black Photographers, 1840 To The Present by Deborah Willis. Ashton was recently selected by Vincent Katz for the 23rd Annual Critics' Residency exhibitions at Maryland Art Place in Baltimore, MD.

Public exhibition hours for "All Night Flight" and "The M Street Project" are Wednesday through Saturday from 12 to 6 p.m. and by appointment. For more information on the artists or high-resolution images, please contact the gallery.

Special thanks to the fine people at Frame Mart Gallery in Cleveland Park for their help with *All Night Flight*.

Civilian Art Projects is an arts organization based in Washington, D.C. existing to support the voice and vision of the artist. Artists connected with Civilian work in a broad range of media including photography, video, painting, sculpture, cutting edge new media, performance art, and site-specific installation. The gallery is located in the Penn Quarter neighborhood in downtown Washington near many major museums, galleries, and national treasures. For more information, please visit www.civilianartprojects.com.