

**MATT KING**

***Stowaway***

May 16 – June 27, 2014

Opening Reception for the Artist  
Friday, May 16  
7 – 9 pm



*Leafy Repeater*, 2014  
Inkjet print on painted mirror, 42" x 60"

Reynolds Gallery is pleased to announce the opening of ***Stowaway***, an exhibition of paintings and sculptures by **Matt King**. The show will open with a reception on Friday, May 16 and will continue through June 27, 2014. This is King's first solo exhibition at Reynolds Gallery.

Matt King's artwork investigates retail environments to explore how desires and values are expressed in the byproducts of consumer culture. Drawing from commercial display and architecture, in this new body of work King turns his attention to the melancholy, absurd and vast arrays of aquariums found in pet stores.

Known for his sculpture, King "builds" two-dimensional work through a complex process using photography, painting, and printmaking. Taking multiple photographs of his subject—identical fish tanks, bowls, and tank ornaments—King combines his images into layered digital files. The composite images, printed on perforated vinyl, are then affixed to glass mirror that he paints to exaggerate patterns revealed by the prints. Misaligned images foster tension and mystery, as geometric abstractions emerge from the deep structure of the built environment. Recurring forms and colors coalesce into discernable shapes, like the underwater plants seen in *Leafy Repeater*, revealing the subtle interference of dissimilar photographs. The resulting works offer a well-choreographed, kaleidoscopic meditation on the nature of contemporary life: full of unexpected angles, rhythmic illusions, and fragmented spaces.

Additionally, King will present new wall-mounted sculptures made of steel, glass, and cast plaster. Like his paintings, these sculptures use the shape of the tank as a leaping off point and continue King's play in the gap between known form and abstract shape. Using molds created from cast-off shipping materials, King renders visible the impressions created by objects during their transport. Through strategies of repetition, reflection, and seriality, evidence of past use and future potential fill these enigmatic shelf-like structures.

As its title implies, the works in this exhibition suggest a gaming of the system. King sees the aquarium as a framing device, a metaphor for the contemporary landscape where the flow of goods is a dominant force in the shaping of physical as well as psychological space. Just as fish wait in suspended animation within glass boxes, the viewer's reflection becomes entangled with the image in the mirror. Here, the viewer becomes a stowaway—catching a ride in the systems of production and distribution that drive the economy and visual culture of our time.

Matt King lives and works in Richmond, Virginia where he is Assistant Professor in the VCUarts Department of Sculpture + Extended Media and Art Foundation Program. King received his MFA from the Milton Avery Graduate School of Art at Bard College, BFA from The Cooper Union School of Art in New York, and also participated in the Whitney Museum of American Art Independent Study program. He has held solo exhibitions nationally at the Lamar Dodd School of Art, University of Georgia, Athens, GA; Brant Gallery at Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Boston, MA; Arlington Arts Center, Arlington, VA; Fourteen30 Contemporary, Portland, OR; and Massimo Audiello in New York, NY. His works have been exhibited in group exhibitions at the US Department of State ART in Embassies program in Rome, Italy; GRIMM Gallery, Amsterdam, The Netherlands; Andrews Gallery at College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA; Art Metropol, Toronto, ON; 1708 Gallery, Richmond, VA; Scope Art Fair, Luhring Augustine, Stefan Stux Gallery, and Hunter College Galleries, all, New York, NY.

King is the recipient of a Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Fellowship (2012-13); a Dean's Faculty Research Grant from VCUarts (2010-11); the National Center for Contemporary Art Kronstadt Residency, St. Petersburg, Russia (2014); a residency at the American Academy in Rome Italy (2013); the MacDowell Colony Fellowship in Peterborough, NH; and a Fiskars Village residency in Finland. His works are in many notable public and private collections including the Georgia Museum of Art, Athens, GA; Markel Corporation, Red Bank, NJ; and Lawrence R. Luhring and Roland J. Augustine, New York, NY.

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