

THE WASSAIC PROJECT

ASPIRATION/INSPIRATION CURATED BY NICHOLAS COHN

Aspiration/Inspiration is a group show curated by Nicholas Cohn for Wassaic Project 2009, on view from Thursday, August 13 through Sunday, August 16.

Aspiration/Inspiration features five talented artists from throughout New York State. Working in a variety of mediums, these artists explore emotions we as humans encounter on our quest for fulfillment: fear, frustration, insecurity and the satisfaction that comes from perseverance.



Though they work in very different mediums, **Oscar Strodl** and **Jen P. Harris** have chosen portraiture to capture feelings of courage, concern and celebration, “Four Horsemen” offers a sense of manifest destiny, that the world is ours for the taking, while “Waiting Room” and “Lida 227” offer more of a tempered mood, the joy of raising a family but the concern that accompanies that responsibility. While with “Patricio” and the diptych of “Two Boys” and “Two Girls” we see fear trumped by companionship.

In **Sarah Kohn’s** sculpture work we see opposing traits, with “Means to an End” we feel strength and longevity while “Static/Stasis” evinces a sense of fragility.

Boyce Cummings and **Danny Miller** return to painting as an art form that describes both a world of possibility, as well as impending disaster. Cummings has produced two images lending themselves to dualistic interpretation: In “Ring of Stars” one may see a beautiful country farm, quant white house and patriotic stars symbolizing American freedom.



However as you dive deeper, the scene turns eerie, as though you have entered a ghost town; the trees have died and the only animal is a small bird eyeing you pensively. With “Lets Slip Away” Miller ushers the viewer into a world of fantasy: a cowboy excitedly lassoing a horse while abstract shapes and cartoon characters hypnotically fill the canvas. In “Finish Last” Miller asks us, in a more subtle way, to suspend reality, with three wolves devouring a birthday cake, as if to say: “Life is tough; enjoy the moment.”



I hope all of you will enjoy the exhibition.

Nicholas Cohn

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