

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Catharine Clark Gallery, San Francisco, CA
August 15, 2012

WhatSolo Exhibition: **Chris Doyle: *Idyllwild***
WhereCatharine Clark Gallery, 150 Minna Street, San Francisco, CA 94105
Exhibition Dates.....September 8 – October 28, 2012
Reception.....Saturday, September 8, 4–6pm
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Still from *Apocalypse Management* (telling about being one being living), 2009; single-channel video animation

San Francisco, CA: Catharine Clark Gallery announces *Idyllwild*, a solo exhibition of new watercolors and media works by **Chris Doyle**. The exhibition dates are September 8 through October 28, 2012. The artist will be present for the reception on Saturday, September 8, from 4 to 6pm, and will lead a casual walkthrough of the exhibition at 3pm. The exhibition coincides with the **ZERO1 Biennial: *Seeking Silicon Valley***, September 12 through December 8, 2012.

Idyllwild, **Chris Doyle's** first solo exhibition at Catharine Clark Gallery, presents multimedia and multisensory works inspired by Thomas Cole's *The Course of the Empire* series, which traces the rise and fall of a civilization. Doyle has long been interested in Cole's 19th century paintings, as well as the panoramic landscapes of Hans Memling and Last Judgment altarpieces of the Renaissance, which have inspired his ongoing and epic body of current works. The exhibition consists of three videos based on Cole's paintings—*Apocalypse Management* (telling about being one being living) (2009) (originally commissioned by MassMoCA), *Waste Generation* (2010), and a generative two-channel video titled *Idyllwild* (2012)—as well as *Rondo* (2012) (based on a stained glass window by Louis Sullivan), several light boxes, five large-scale watercolors, and a video book reminiscent of an illuminated manuscript. As in Cole's *Course of Empire*, the exhibition *Idyllwild* focuses on how contemporary landscape has been impacted by time, history, and human influence. While Cole's nostalgia in the era of industrialism was for agrarian society, Doyle characterizes his as a longing for a pre-technological period in history.

Chris Doyle brings several of the central issues explored in Cole's *The Course of the Empire* into contemporary relevance by reinterpreting the original narrative and using new technologies to address the subject. Industrial ruin, debris, and waste are featured in Doyle's work, which focuses on a societal need for restoration and conservation. Doyle's work reflects on the cyclical nature of history and time. He begins his series in the penultimate scene of Cole's narrative, returning the destroyed, digitalized, and fluorescent landscape in *Apocalypse Management* (telling about being one being living)—based on Cole's *Destruction* (1836)—back to its natural, primordial, and visually abstracted state in *Idyllwild*, which is based on Cole's first painting, *The Savage State* (1834).



Detail of *The Larger Illusion*, 2012, triptych; Duratrans on LED panels; 20 x 90 inches

Doyle's video animations skillfully capture the shifting, regressive landscape, and create an immersive experience backwards through time. Each animation is a thematic and visual anchor point for the other exhibited works. For example, *Smokescreen* is a light box that features industrial factories omitting noxious smog in purples, yellows, and greens within a border of Robert Morris-inspired digital leaves. Derived from the imagery in *Waste Generation*, *Smokescreen* examines creation and waste in the industrial era, as reflected in cultural symbols like art, architecture, and the imagery on money. Similarly, *The Larger Illusion*, related to the *Idyllwild* generative video, is a stunning triptych that highlights nature's return to its virginal state: its overgrown vegetation, vines, and knotted tree branches flourish without human trace. Overall, the interactive and visual journey through *Idyllwild* is embodied in *Rondo*, an animation projected onto a transparent circular disk, and reminiscent of a Louis Sullivan stained glass window incorporating references to nature and culture: mushrooms and art history. Transfixing and vivid, *Rondo* captures the circular, regenerative cycle of history in its form and content, and reminds us that the world is constantly in flux, whether or not we are aware of it.

Chris Doyle is a multidisciplinary artist based in Brooklyn, New York. He received his Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts from Boston College and his Masters in Architecture from Harvard University. In addition to recent solo exhibitions in New York, Los Angeles, and at The Taubman Museum of Art, his work has been shown at The Brooklyn Museum of Art, MassMoCA, P.S.1 Museum of Contemporary Art, The Tang Museum, The Brooklyn Academy of Music, The Sculpture Center, and as part of the New York Video Festival at Lincoln Center and the Melbourne International Arts Festival. Doyle curated *50,000 Beds*, a large-scale, collaborative series of video installations involving 45 artists and presented simultaneously by The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, ArtSpace, New Haven, and Real Art Ways, Hartford. His work has been supported by grants from New York Foundation for the Arts, NYSCA, Creative Capital Foundation, and the MAP Fund. His temporary and permanent urban projects include *LEAP*, presented by Creative Time; *Commutable*, commissioned by The Public Art Fund; as well as recent commissions for Culver City, California; Tampa, Florida; Kansas City, Missouri; and Austin Texas.

Idyllwild is presented in conjunction with the 2012 **ZERO1 Biennial: *Seeking Silicon Valley***. ZERO1 is a nonprofit that focuses on the intersection of art, technology, and the public within a globalized world. Since 2006, the ZERO1 Biennial has presented events, unique artist commissions, exhibitions, public art installations and performances from 500 international and local artists throughout the Silicon Valley and the Bay Area. In the ZERO1 Garage, **Stephanie Syjuco**, also represented by Catharine Clark Gallery, will present a commissioned installation, **FREE TEXT: The Open Source Reading Room** (2012), that considers current issues of reproduction, copyright, and intellectual property.

About Catharine Clark Gallery

Established in 1991, **Catharine Clark Gallery** presents the work of contemporary artists. A wide range of media is represented in the gallery's program with an emphasis on content-driven work that challenges the traditional use of materials, formal aesthetics, and concept. Catharine Clark Gallery was the first San Francisco gallery to create a dedicated media room, presenting new genres and experimental video art with each changing exhibition. Exhibitions are hosted on a six-week schedule and generally feature one or two solo presentations in addition to media room installations. The gallery regularly participates in national and international art fairs.

Housed in a former 1920s farming equipment warehouse, redesigned by Los Angeles-based architectural designer Tim Campbell, Catharine Clark Gallery, San Francisco, is situated among numerous arts-related landmark buildings in San Francisco's Yerba Buena Neighborhood; it is adjacent to the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA) and the Museum of the African Diaspora (MOAD) and is one block from the Contemporary Jewish Museum (CJM) and the Museum of Craft and Folk Art (MoCFA). The gallery is open Tuesday–Saturday, 11am–6pm. For more information, please visit www.cclarkgallery.com or email info@cclarkgallery.com.

In March of 2010, the gallery opened **Catharine Clark Gallery, New York**, a project space in a residential apartment in New York's Chelsea neighborhood. Installations of gallery artists' work are presented as "pop-up" exhibits at the New York location several times a year (313 West 14th Street, Apt. 2F, between 8th and 9th Avenues). To date, the New York gallery has presented a group show about contemporary drawings, and solo exhibitions of Anthony Disenza, Adam Chapman, Scott Greene, Walter Robinson, and Stephanie Syjuco's work. In 2013, the New York space will feature solo exhibitionw by Charles Gute and Nina Katchadourian.

2012 Advanced Exhibition Listings

San Francisco

September 8 – October 28
Chris Doyle: *Idyllwild*

September 12–December 8
ZERO1 Biennial

November 3 – December 22
Solo Exhibition: Chester Arnold

New York

May – September by appointment
Solo Exhibition: Stephanie Syjuco

September 2012 – Spring 2012 by appointment
Solo Exhibition: Charles Gute

2013 by appointment
Solo Exhibition: Nina Katchadourian
(Sorted Books)

Art Fairs

October 18–21
Texas Contemporary, Houston

December 4–9
Miami Project: Modern & Contemporary