

SAVE-THE-DATES**TRAVIS SOMERVILLE AT CATHARINE CLARK GALLERY AND THE CROCKER ART MUSEUM*****A Great Cloud of Witnesses at Catharine Clark Gallery***

March 2 – April 13, 2013, Opening Saturday, March 2

Panel Discussion from 3:30 - 5pm; panelists TBA. Reception from 5 - 7pm

For his 2013 solo exhibition at Catharine Clark Gallery Travis Somerville continues his exploration of historical memory. How is it that certain stories reduced to sound bites and repeated ad nauseam become the collective truth? Through imagery that invites an investigation into the impact of iconographic legacy and the current state of human rights, Somerville critically examines the continued cultural implications of the Civil Rights movement. By bringing appropriated material from the past into dialogue with imagery from today's "post racial" society, the artist makes complex montages that appose imagery from a bygone era with that of contemporary news stories on the subject of immigration, child labor in Uzbekistan, and Arab Spring uprisings. The resulting works are confrontational and serve as a springboard for conversations about multiculturalism, truth, and the lasting power of images.

Somerville's work has been included in numerous museum exhibitions: the University of Georgia, de Saisset Museum at Santa Clara University, Florida A&M University, the Laguna Art Museum, the Smithsonian Institution, San Francisco Arts Commission, the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, among others. Somerville's work was recently exhibited in *Newtopia: The State of Human Rights*, an international show of 70 contemporary artists whose work is dedicated to an investigation on the state of human rights. The exhibition was held at various prominent cultural institutions in Mechelen, Belgium and was curated by Katerina Gregos. His solo exhibition, titled *Rebirth of a Nation* and curated by Diana Daniels, will open at the Crocker Art Museum in March, 2013. Somerville has exhibited with Catharine Clark Gallery since 1996. For more information, visit <http://www.cclarkgallery.com/>



Travis Somerville. *Fall of Spring*, 2013
Pencil on found chairs; Approximately
58 x 34 x36 inches



Travis Somerville, born 1963. *1963*, 2009
Installations with found objects and video;
117 x 116 x 214 inches. Crocker Art Museum, Crocker
Art Museum Purchase with funds provided by Deborah
and Andrew Rappaport, 2011.78

Rebirth of a Nation: Travis Somerville's 1963**Crocker Art Museum , March 3 –May 5, 2013**

Reception Saturday, March 23 from 2:30 - 4:30pm

Rebirth of A Nation: Travis Somerville's 1963 is a tightly focused exhibition that showcases the Crocker Art Museum's newly acquired, mixed-media installation *1963*, along with four large-scale paintings and a site-specific wall drawing. A three-dimensional construction measuring 7 feet high and 12 feet wide, *1963* examines a volatile and pivotal year in American history through sculpture, video, painting, and collage. Somerville, who regards himself as a history painter, has created a rich tapestry of social documents, political detail, and popular culture artifacts. Wallpapered with randomly culled sheets of period newspapers, Somerville's structure is meant to be entered and viewed from within and out. It serves simultaneously as a collage, time capsule, and provocation. Somerville's critique of the visual artifacts of racism in the United States is personal. Born in 1963, he was raised in Georgia by activist parents who participated in the Civil Rights movement. He aims with *1963* to make visceral the conflict and violence that confronted the fight for equal treatment under the law in that decade.

Rebirth of a Nation: Travis Somerville's 1963 will be accompanied by a 20-page catalogue with full-color reproductions written by Diana L. Daniels, the exhibition's curator. For more information, visit <http://www.crockerartmuseum.org/>