

Chester Arnold



Catharine Clark Gallery: A Pilgrim's Progress - Chester Arnold.

Review by Tami Tsark:
11.03.12

Chester Arnold's show presents panoramas of canyons, creeks, and chasms; journeys to countrysides, forests, and mines; and dialogs with bones, pails and hats. As you enter the gallery, the paintings strike you as contemporary work created by an "old-world" painter. The paintings take you to places you feel you might know, but know you have never been. Look beyond the rich, expertly rendered layers of paint and you'll find, upon closer examination, familiar but unknown objects and memorabilia. The tools, the skeletons, and other magical things that are lodged into the crevices and the nooks and crannies of the majestic environments, revealing a hidden yet palpable unknown story (unless you're fortunate enough to hear the stories told by the painter himself).

The show's opening reception on November 3rd includes an artist's "walk-through" and gives a lucky audience insight into his work, his paintings and his teachings-- as a journey-- which he fondly describes as the "disorganized religion of art." (The show's title comes from-- and references-- the Christian

allegory by John Bunyan.) He explains that the work is idea-driven and reflects his childhood of "Sixty Years in the Forest." Profoundly in love with painting at an early age, it is clear that this could not be more true for Arnold now. This show is one of discovered narrative. At first glance, you are presented with rich moody environments. Look closer and you'll uncover and be taken-in by work which is cleverly embedded with humor, and with deep translucent light. The content is one of rich allegory and delicate spirit. Chester Arnold describes the work as "a physical objectification of detail... an inseparable union of interests" which he coins as a new genre of painting, "Psycho Realism." Every paint stroke and every object reveals his love, his acute exploration, and his celebration of these worlds.

If you've not yet seen the show, I encourage you to journey into these spaces and embark on the passage of time and experience through which these paintings might lead you.



Evidence, 2011; oil on linen; 78 x 94 inches



Installation view of *Tools of the Trade* (2012) and *A Game of Bones* (2012)

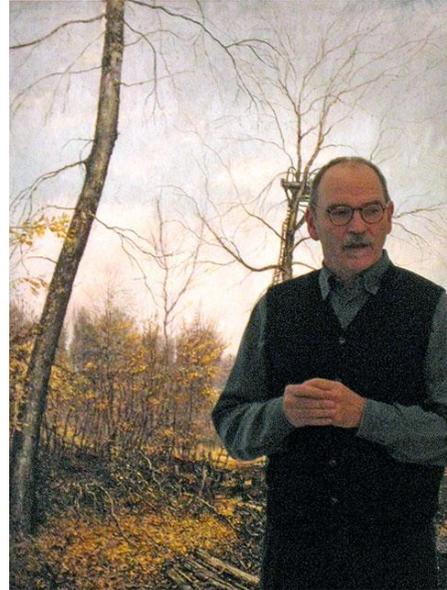
Art by Chester Arnold at Catharine Clark Gallery.

Chester Arnold degraded environment art.



60 Years in the Forest, 2012; Oil on linen; 71 ½ x 56 inches

Art by Chester Arnold at Catharine Clark Gallery.



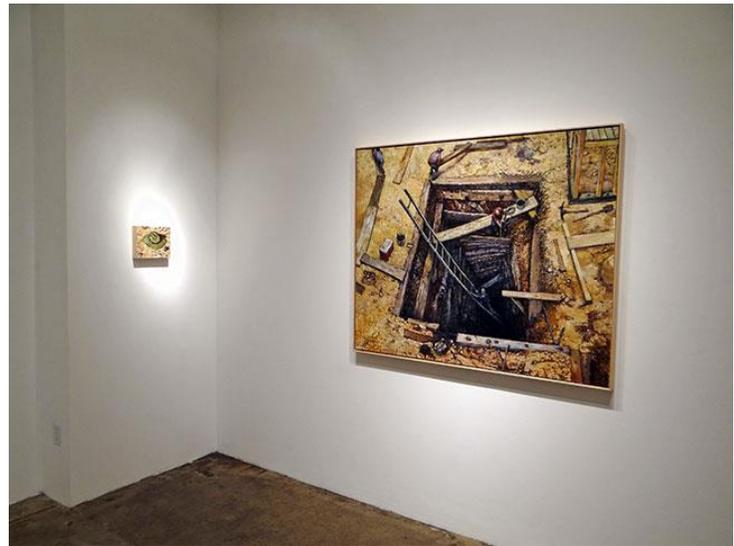
Detail, *60 Years in the Forest*, 2012; Oil on linen; 71 ½ x 56 inches

Chester Arnold discourses on his art (image c/o Tami Tsark).



Installation view of *Grubstake* (2008) and *The Legacy of Henry King* (2012)

Environmental art by Chester Arnold at Catharine Clark Gallery.



Installation view of *Old Hat* (2012) and *Small Time Operation* (2012)

Human impact art by Chester Arnold.



Installation view of Chester Arnold's exhibition *A Pilgrim's Progress*



Installation view of Chester Arnold's exhibition *A Pilgrim's Progress*

Art by Chester Arnold at Catharine Clark Gallery.

Chester Arnold art.



Post-Chester-Arnold-art-show redux at Catharine Clark Gallery.