



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Over the Influence Presents
New Solitude
A Solo Exhibition by Erik Parker



Erik Parker, *Stay Strong*, 2020. Acrylic on canvas. 198.1 x 213.4 cm. 78 x 84 in. Courtesy of the Artist and Over the Influence. Photo credit Farzad Owrang.

Exhibition Dates: 28 November 2020 - 09 January 2021 (Tuesday – Saturday, 11 AM – 7 PM)

Opening Day: Saturday, 28 November 2020 from 11 AM – 7 PM

Address: G/F, Over the Influence, 159 Hollywood Road, Central, Hong Kong

23rd October 2020, Hong Kong - **Over the Influence** is pleased to present *New Solitude*, a solo exhibition of new paintings by Brooklyn-based artist **Erik Parker**. The exhibition will run from 28 November 2020 – 09 January 2021, with an opening day on November 28 from 11 AM – 7 PM. Brooklyn-based artist Erik Parker has risen in the art world as a singular voice of dissent, resistance, and complaint, humorously expressed in vibrant, playfully appealing visual narratives. His rebellious and youthful paintings are jam-packed with reference material in compositions that exploit today's familiar



feeling of overstimulation. Parker's practice has always touched on politics and the 24-hour news cycle of contemporary media, and his upcoming exhibition at Over the Influence, Hong Kong is no different.

With works such as *Bro*, *Hot Spot*, and *Crackdown* Parker decidedly articulates flashpoints of current cultural dissension. *Bro*, a reference to politician Bernie Sanders' loyal Bernie Bro followers, is a portrait composed of a cacophony of contemporary icons, guns, cartoon tanks, and idyllic beaches. What seems dire and apocalyptic in the subject's internal structure is calmed by Seuss-like beaches reflected in his glasses intended as an escape from our raucous lives. But don't let that small glimpse of hope fool you, Parker's works are notorious for their sinister undertones. These places of escapism are imagined idyllic landscapes, the real ones threatened today by rising seas and exceptionally destructive storms. Alongside climate change, Parker pokes at hot button issues such as the COVID-19 pandemic and authoritarian tendencies of current world leaders. All painted in 2020, a year of global instability, the works in the exhibition each touch upon the many factors leading to the distrust of media, politics, and people in power. Yet scattered throughout are moments of calm, in the embrace of *Amazing* and the jubilation of *Stay Strong*. The world may be in chaos, but the relationships we have will hold us together.

- END -

Media Inquiry:

For high-res images and interview with **Erik Parker** and/or **Julliana Choi, Director of Over the Influence**, please contact:

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About Erik Parker

Born in 1968 in Stuttgart, Germany, Parker was raised in San Antonio, Texas. He received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Texas at Austin in 1996 and a Master of Fine Arts from SUNY Purchase in 1998. Parker has been awarded several honors throughout his career, including the Durhurst Family Scholarship (1997), Rose Scholarship (1997), and the Rema Hort-Mann Foundation Grant (1999).

Parker has had solo exhibitions at galleries and museums around the world, including the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, CT; De Appel, Amsterdam; and Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Fort Worth, TX. His work is in numerous important international collections including The Brooklyn Museum, NY; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, CA; Montreal Museum of Fine Art, Montreal, Canada; and Fauschou Foundation, Copenhagen, DK.



About Over the Influence

Over the Influence was founded in Hong Kong in 2015 and expanded to Los Angeles in 2018. The gallery represents an international roster of emerging and established artists working across different mediums and disciplines. OTI is dedicated to championing artists who challenge traditional approaches to studio practice and presents a dynamic program that explores the intersection of contemporary art, architecture, design, music, fashion and other forms of visual expression.

Address: G/F & 1/F, 159 Hollywood Road, Central, Hong Kong

Opening Hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 11 AM – 7 PM

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