



Over the Influence Presents

Devin Troy Strother

Durag Activities

13 May to 25 June 2022



Devin Troy Strother, *Durag Activities (fixin / finna to go)*, 2022, Oil and acrylic on linen, 159.4 x 148.6 cm, 62 3/4 x 58 1/2 in, Image courtesy of the Artist and Over the Influence.

Over The Influence is proud to present *Durag Activities*, a solo presentation of LA-based Devin Troy Strother at the gallery's Bangkok location. In his second solo exhibition with the gallery, Strother continues to reference the visual language of his predecessors, particularly Philip Guston, as an entry point to re-explore figurative painting and to examine how oppressed peoples can reclaim their histories and power through subverting and repurposing imagery and aesthetics.

Strother is known for his humorous imagery and satirical juxtapositions that immediately confront and engage viewers in conversations around difficult topics, while maintaining a sense of levity and visual association to mass culture. Strother's artistic practice is one that spans techniques and mediums from paint, to paper, to bronze, united by his recognizable aesthetic that embraces the materiality of whichever medium he is working with.

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In *Durag Activities*, Strother continues to intentionally invoke the imagery and style associated with others, and make them his own. This exhibition feeds into the larger discussion surrounding Strother's practice that pushes artists and viewers alike to challenge norms and accepted truths about what art means and is. This allows the artist himself, and others, to reexamine art historical tropes and images and turn them on their heads, creating alternate realities and revisionist histories.

"The title of the show is from "Durag Activity," a song by a young rapper named Baby Keem. I used this title when imagining a group of men going undercover to seek vengeance upon a group whose sole purpose was to eradicate my brothers and sisters. In going under cover and having to wear those awfully stupid ass white hoods on their heads, I imagined my brothers would wear a durag on top of their heads to protect that precious black hair and skin from them evil white linens", the artist explained.

Artist Bio

Devin Troy Strother (B. 1986, West Covina, CA, USA) is known for his darkly humorous alternative racial narratives in a variety of medium from cut paper to neon signage. He finds inspiration in elements as disparate as stand-up comedy, music lyrics, and contemporary politics. His striking collages take inspiration from artists such as Joseph Cornell, Marcel Duchamp and Henri Matisse. Though visually simple, Strother does not shy away from uncomfortable topics and confronts his audience with some of the most pressing issues of our time through his tragic absurdities.

Exhibition Dates:

13 March to 25 June 2022

Location:

Over the Influence Bangkok
81 Tri Mit Road
Talat Noi, Samphanthawong
Bangkok, Thailand

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