

IDIOSYNCRASY AND ARTISTIC VISION

JOHN DILG, CHINA MARKS, AND T L SOLIEN

The work of these three artists selected as part of this exhibition could not be more different. Paradoxically, these very differences help illuminate why they are successful in presenting the world —“their worlds,” perhaps — in such a way as to transcend the particular and engage the eye and win the empathy of the viewer. I believe that is close to what art does. Combining literary or other artistic allusion — “Moby Dick” is the latest — with a personal iconography, TL Solien delivers a deconstructive, yet cohesive, humorous, yet deeply personal, statement in beautifully painterly fashion. With brilliantly colored cutouts collaged against ominous, brooding backgrounds, he ironically upends his chosen narratives with episodes from his autobiography — parables, hang-ups, hauntings. In contrast, but similarly, John Dilg paints transcendent mnemonics and markers of life events and shared experiences. Nature and memory coalesce in a pictographic vocabulary, reflective rather than nostalgic, and with a gentle wit that denies sentimentality. His colors are pastels, muted and calm. Very differently, China Marks uses an industrial sewing machine as her paintbrush and scraps of commercially made fabric as her palette to create her “sewn drawings.” With superb craftsmanship and the juxtapositioning of colors, patterns, textures and forms, she creates fantastical tableaux of events and characters — sometimes surreal, sometimes slyly satirical, sometimes poignant. Three artists, three ways of seeing: each way peculiar to each artist.

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Luise Ross Gallery

— NYC —

**JOHN DILG
CHINA MARKS
T L SOLIEN**

**Charlotte & Philip Hanes
Art Gallery
Wake Forest University**



**AUGUST 29 — OCTOBER 11
— 2007 —**

TL SOLIEN

TL Solien presents large-scale mixed-media works on paper using imagery extracted from the deepest recesses of his memory as well as the pages of 19th-century classics including Melville's *Moby Dick*. The artist adeptly selects potent symbols to mix with eerie atmospheres. All the while Solien upends the narrative of the hunt for the white whale by coupling and interjecting it with episodes from his own history – parables, hang-ups, and hauntings.

Born USA, 1949

Education

1976 MFA, Washington University, St. Louis, MO
1970 BFA, Kansas City Art Institute, Kansas City, MO
Represented by Luise Ross since 2002



PROPHET – 2005, mixed-media collage on paper, 31.5" x 38"

CHINA MARKS

Comprised of scraps of commercially made fabrics, Marks' drawings juxtapose myriad patterns, textures, and forms. These works are fashioned from an automatic artistic process, where mysterious figures erupt into fantastic revelries – sometimes horrific, often whimsical, and always startling. What sometimes appear as benign storybook representations often turn out to be bizarre scenes of domination and struggle, which surprise the viewer lulled by the seemingly benevolent appearance of the fabrics.

Born USA, 1942

Education

1973 Moorhead State University, MN, B.A.
1977 University of Nebraska, M.F.A.
Represented by Luise Ross since 2003



WAR DANDY – 2004, fabric, thread, webbing, 20" x 26"

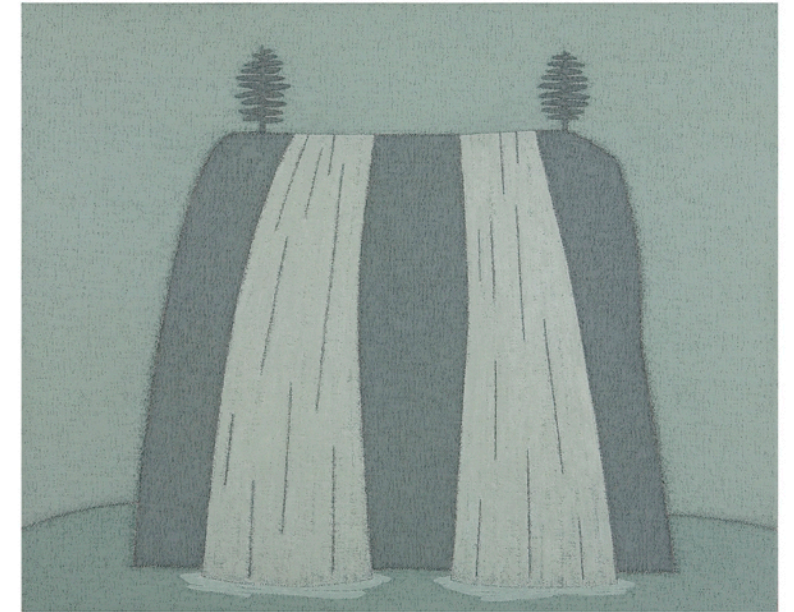
JOHN DILG

By essentially distilling personal experiences and memories, (Dilg's work) transports the viewer to moments of contemplative quietude. These paintings, for Dilg, both revise and reconstruct memory, as they present unnatural accounts of purportedly natural events, places, persons, and experiences. They are the products of the conditions present when, in the words of the artist, "remaking reality makes the world."

Born USA, 1945

Education

1969 B.F.A., Rhode Island School of Design, RI
1971-72 Lalit Kala Akedemi, New Dehli, India, Fulbright Scholar
Represented by Luise Ross since 1999



TWIN FALLS – 2003, oil on canvas, 16.25" x 20"