

GEARY
MILLERTON

IF THIS IS PARADISE...



Smoke on the Water, 2022, oil rig fire images layered and arranged to create a portrait of petroleum sea rigging, printed and mounted on diabond, 48" x 62", edition of 3

GHOST OF A DREAM

AUGUST 6 - OCTOBER 2, 2022

OPENING RECEPTION

AUGUST 6, 4-6 PM

Geary is pleased to present *If this is Paradise...*, an exhibition from artist duo collective, Ghost of a Dream. The works included in the exhibition are made from the artists' image archive of fire and water-based tragedies, built from online news stories of current events over the past few years. The images were first classified together by subject matter, then arranged, collaged, and desaturated, so that which is still visible from each event is recontextualized into vivid, beautiful, and heartbreaking patterns. The five composite images included in the exhibition are sourced from collections of burning police cars, oil rig fires, melting icebergs, homes in floods, and red tide coupled with toxic green algae.

Fire and water mark the end of things, destruction, and demise, but throughout history fire and water can also signify rejuvenation and growth. This cycle of death and rebirth of nature and culture has repeated on this planet since the beginning of time, yet, with the inevitable repeat of this cycle upon us, it's evident that things are different this time around: the planet is in trouble.

Ghost of a Dream asks, What do we do...how shall we react, when the biggest crisis facing humankind is being ignored? We need to rectify our systems of power, both literally and politically. The ghostly images are aligned, and visible layers of repeated tragedy remind us of the realization that we may have already surpassed the tipping point and still there are no answers. No one is coming to save us, and the time to act is now.

Ghost of a Dream is the collaborative project of Lauren Was and Adam Eckstrom. They are featured in current solo exhibitions, *Tomorrow is Here* at the new MAAM museum in Boston, and *Aligned by the Sun* at the Ackland Art Museum in Chapel Hill. Other recent solo exhibitions include *A Devil to Pay*, CES Gallery in Los Angeles; *The Fair Housing Project*, Smack Mellon, Brooklyn, NY; *A Good Run of Bad Luck*, Binghamton University, Binghamton, NY; and *Gone the Sun*, Galerie Paris-Beijing, Paris, France.

Grants include the Pollock-Krasner Foundation, New York Foundation for the Arts, Joan Mitchell Foundation, Artist Resource Trust, Jerome Foundation and the inaugural Young Masters Art Prize in London.

Ghost of a Dream's work has been featured in publications such as The New York Times, Vogue Magazine, Hyperallergic, BlouinArtinfo, ArtFCity, W Magazine, Interview Magazine, and World of Interiors. They have also been featured on Good Morning America, VICE, and the Southern Foodways Alliance in conjunction with 21C Museum.

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