



Mark Milloff

September 4 – October 11, 2003

"I have been always taken by the subjects of Milloff's pastel works and how their epic scale build on 19th century American landscape and narrative painting."

-Debra Balken
Exhibition Curator

After a considerable hiatus, Mark Milloff's passion for story telling prompted him to rediscover pastels, and Moby-Dick, one of America's unforgettable epics would serve as his muse. Upon viewing Mark Milloff's large-scale pastel drawing for an installation in progress in the artist's studio last summer, independent curator Debra Balken felt compelled to find a niche in New York's contemporary art scene for the work. Paying homage to the great American tradition of narrative painting, the multimedia installation, entitled *Drawn Up Toward Heaven as if by Invisible Wire*, evokes the presentation and staging of Frederic Church's paintings in New York in the mid-19th century. There, Church dramatized the unveiling of his work through huge red curtains, which were parted only after the viewer paid a set admission. Balken, having heard about Milloff's plans for drawing on Church's exhibition prescriptions and devices, thought it was the perfect piece for the inaugural exhibition season at CUE.

Having read Moby-Dick repeatedly since high school, growing up in South Florida for Milloff meant fishing, sitting on the dock and piers that line the coast, while peering into the murky Atlantic underneath imagining what terror lay below. Saturdays were spent at the movies, and as the artist matured, film narratives became increasingly exotic and complex. Inspired by the battles depicted in Eisenstein's "Alexander Nevsky," and Kurasawa's "Seven Samurai," Millof began rendering dramatic moments of impact through large-scale pastel drawings in the early 1980s. A passion for filmic conventions as a member of the audience waiting for the curtains to part, or as a filmmaker creating mis-en-scenes are very present in his current work. For Milloff, it is all about telling the big story.

Mark Milloff received his BA from Connecticut College, and his MFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore, MD. His large scale pastel works have not been seen in exhibition since the mid-1980s. A fully-illustrated exhibition catalogue with a forward by Debra Balken is available for sale at the gallery.

CUE Art Foundation is a non-profit organization that provides deserving artists from around the country an opportunity for solo exhibition. Located in New York's Chelsea gallery district, the Foundation's 2,000 sq.ft. ground floor exhibition space affords these artists professional exposure comparable to that offered by neighboring commercial galleries, without the usual financial restraints.

CUE does not promote a particular school of artistic thought or practice; rather, the criteria for selection have been devised with the sole purpose in mind of exhibiting work by artists who have not

had a solo exhibition in a commercial venue or have received minimal exposure in New York in the last ten years.

For additional information, please contact Jeremy Adams, Gallery Director, CUE Art Foundation (212) 206-3583.

Upcoming exhibitions:

October 16 – November 25

Nancy Mitchnick: Selected by Polly Apfelbaum

George Schneeman: Selected by Bill Berkson

December 4 – January 24

Aristedes Logothetis: Selected by William Fagaly

James Cobb: Selected by Jimmy Santiago Baca