

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tom Thayer

Crossing the Methane River

April 28 - May 26, 2012

Opening Reception:

Saturday, April 28, 6-8pm

*A man he told me it's not the methane,
it's your knowledge that blocks your way.*
-Bill Fay, "Methane River", 1970

Derek Eller Gallery is pleased to present
new work by Tom Thayer.



Tom Thayer channels his improvisational and deeply personal practice through installation, low-tech stop-motion animations, performance, sculpture, painting, and works on paper. By transforming and amplifying modest materials (cardboard, paint, string, and wire), he creates fleets of puppets, enigmatic figures, shapes, birds, and desolate scenery. His work has affinity for the rawness of Jean Dubuffet, the aggression of the Viennese Actionists, the automatism of Henri Michaux, and the romanticism of Henri Rousseau. For twenty years, Thayer has manifested a singular vision in a multidisciplinary oeuvre.

Thayer "pushes away cerebral, idea-based work," towards a liberated imaginary, one that is uninhibited by conceptual conceits and has the ability to break through the impasse of the known into unexplored regions of feeling and experience. Childhood, the imagination, and outsiders interest him as alternatives to the rationalized and regulated everyday world. The work too reveals his preoccupation with humanity's penchant for cruelty, and the "slightly monstrous" instincts present at birth—the "human dysfunction." Thayer communicates the vacillations of human psychology with a vibrant visual language that is as immediately captivating as it is hermetic. He laces humor and naiveté with pathos, melancholy with romance. He sympathizes with the strange and conjures the spaces between fantasy and reality, interior and exterior—to experience the work of Tom Thayer is to enter a world surfeit with energy and mystery.

Originally from Chicago, Tom Thayer lives and works in New Jersey. His work is currently on view in the *Whitney Biennial 2012* at the Whitney Museum of American Art and *Utopia/Dystopia: Construction and Destruction in Photography and Collage* at the Museum of Fine Arts Houston. This will be his first solo exhibition with the gallery.

Derek Eller Gallery is located at 615 West 27th Street, between 11th and 12th Avenues. Hours are Tuesday - Saturday from 11am - 6pm. For further information or visuals, please contact the gallery at 212.206.6411 or visit www.derekeller.com.