



Christopher Mir - *Perfect From Now On*

May 19 - June 25, 2011

The paintings by Christopher Mir (Baltimore, USA, 1970 -) evoke an uncertain heaven on earth, through a blend of Heroic Fantasy and digital surrealism. The characters, too familiar to be true, are embedded in paradoxical backgrounds to the misleading quietness. The line is clear, even meticulous, but from the canvases comes a sense of distance or inadequacy, induced by the subtly arranged shift between the figurative elements and the graphic patterns. This juxtaposition creates a dense and complex narrative, nourished as much from socio-historical references as from a kind of crypto-futuristic spirituality.

The landscape, would it be dreamlike or nightmarish, fluctuates with the incongruous graphics that interfere with the reading levels of the works and reinforce the illusion of collage.

For *Perfect From Now On*, the artist presents in parallel with his large narrative canvases small-size still lifes, with a faster and softer touch, details or recurring motifs, highlighted to accentuate the effect of decolonizing our minds.

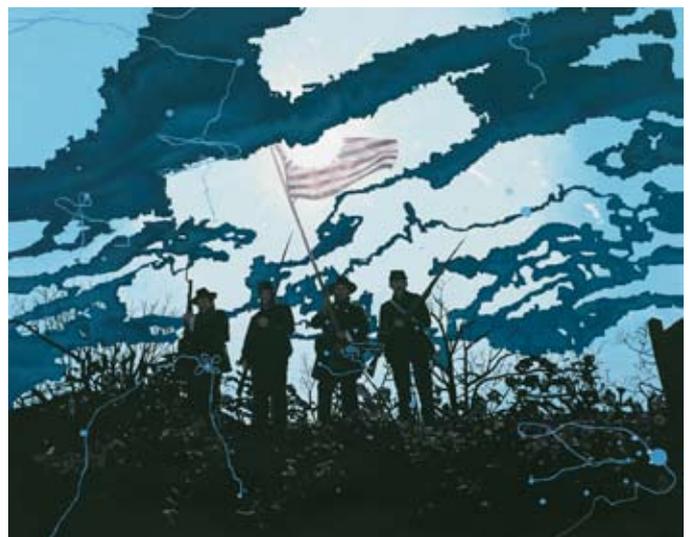
Cyril Kerr

My paintings are based on digital images that I find online or that I shoot myself (mainly figures in faux rituals). I combine images from different sources in such a way that a dreamlike scene is generated. I think of the landscape as an arena or stage set for the characters, machines, creatures, and abstract elements to exist within. I want to connect my work to the great traditions of European and American painting since the early Renaissance. In my mind the figure in a landscape is the critical theme of all of Western painting. And today this approach has many ominous ramifications. Climate change, mass extinctions, the excesses and corruption of governments, corporations, and individuals, and the possibility of a viable humanism in the face of the dehumanizing effects of globalization and the digital age become subtexts.

Christopher Mir



Perfect From Now On II, 2009, 140x170cm, acrylic on canvas



The West Was Never Won, 2011, 84x104cm, acrylic on canvas