

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ashes to Access

by Thomas Sternglass

Opening reception, Thursday, December 8th, 6-9 pm

Thomas Sternglass' first solo show at Allouche Gallery explores ancient and biblical themes through a modern, technological lens. In *Ashes to Access*, Sternglass uses oil paint to transform popular religious iconography and adapt them to investigate our present moment. He is especially interested in our cultural obsession with technology and how we transform our own subjectivity through the lens of our screens. Sternglass isn't exempt from his own critique; on his piece *Narcissus Rising*, he explains:

"In the myth, Narcissus gazes at his reflection in water, absorbed in self love. I questioned my own purpose too, working on a canvas that took up my whole peripheral, gazing into the abyss. As our digital image is reflected back at us constantly and generated to others, we are in an unprecedented age of narcissism. From seeing a hazy reflection in water, to the endless stream of information now, we are all Narcissus."

All of Sternglass' subjects are caught in between the present and an unknown future—they are labeled, bar-coded, cyborgian figures, placed against the backdrop of an avalanche of information. In *Icarus*, Sternglass' inspirations range from the mythological to the philosophical; he explains,

"Icarus flew too close to the sun. How far should we go if we are always being compelled to push limits? My Icarus has integrated his body with technology and AI to go beyond what it means to be human. As we fly closer to the next step in human evolution, we should embrace the future, but not forget this timeless truth, and the heat of the sun we chase."

The message in Ashes to Access isn't so much an indictment of our modern age, but an exploration of its terms and effects. In Sternglass' world, some bodies will fade into dirt, and others will be uploaded into the cloud, but it's up to you to determine what's nobler.

Thomas Sternglass was born in 1996 in NYC. He received his Bachelor's of Fine arts at Pratt and went on to work as a resident in Ross Bleckner's East Hampton studio, who introduced him to the team at Allouche Gallery. He currently lives and works from his studio in Manhattan. Ashes to Access will premiere on December 8th at Allouche Gallery LA from 6-9pm.

For more information on the artists or gallery please visit allouchegallery.com or email losangeles@allouchegallery.com