

FORM+CONTENT GALLERY

For release 5 June 2015.

How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the International Monetary System

What

An exhibition of new work by Kenneth Steinbach at Form + Content Gallery in Minneapolis.

When

Thursday, Sept 10, 2015 through Saturday Oct 17, 2015 Gallery hours: Thursday – Saturday, 12:00 – 6:00 pm and by appointment Free and open to the public

Opening Reception and Discussion

Saturday, Sept 12, 2015 Discussion of fiat money systems with Dr. Tim Essenberg from 6:30 - 7:00pm Reception follows from 7:00 - 9:00pm Free and open to the public

Where

Form + Content Gallery Whitney Square Building 210 North 2nd Street, Suite 104 Minneapolis, MN 55401

Info

Form and Content Gallery, 612-436-1151

<http://www.formandcontent.org>

formandcontent@gmail.com

Description

How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the International Monetary System is an exhibition of large-scale graphite wall drawings and altered banknotes that explore the visual characteristics and underlying behaviors of fiat currencies. *Fiat* currencies are paper monetary systems willed into existence by government or para-government agencies. Their values are entirely defined by decree, without being backed by physical commodities, such as gold. The functions of these fiat systems are constantly challenged as they encounter real

world circumstances, their values endlessly changing in cycles of expansion, decay, and political upheaval. Most modern currencies are fiat currencies.

The paintings and drawings in this exhibition derive their imagery from failed and devalued fiat currencies. The works employ compositions that evoke the precise but unpredictable logics that characterize the function and dysfunction of these monetary systems in diverse economies across the globe, systems that operate in simultaneously helpful and indifferent relation to human need and desire. ***How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the International Monetary System*** includes large scale graphite wall drawings and watercolor paintings inspired by, and using devalued money that reinterpret the imagery, structures, and functioning of these systems, finding alternative forms of value and meaning in their reinvention.

Dr. Tim Essenburg

Tim is Professor of Economics, Bethel University, and has a keen interest in the revitalization of lower-income, urban neighborhoods. Most recently he co-authored and edited, with Lindsey Hanson, *New Faces of American Poverty: A Reference Guide to the Great Recession*. Essenburg considers culture the starting point of a Liberal Arts education, and therefore frames his courses in term of culture and institutions, challenging students to think critically about happiness, meaningfulness, and primary justice, at the individual, organizational and structural levels. He and his family have lived in the East Phillips Neighborhood of south Minneapolis for 24 years, where in 1998 he and Joani Essenburg co-founded the Banyan Community, a community development organization focused on developing youth, strengthening families and building community. In September Banyan Community will break ground on its \$5.7 million permanent facility.

Mission Statement

Form+Content Gallery nurtures diverse artistic practice and thoughtful dialogue. We value art as a catalyst for critical thinking. We value integrity and the artistic process. We aspire to link personal expression to broader social contexts. Form+Content Gallery is dedicated to moving the definitions and practice of culture forward in new and lively ways.