

GOODWIN | FINE ART

1255 DELAWARE STREET, DENVER, CO 80204

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Shawn Huckins | The American ___tier

April 17 – May 30, 2015

Opening Reception with the Artist

Friday, April 17 from 5 until 8

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Gallery Hours: Tuesday – Friday 11 – 6, Saturday 11 - 5



Goodwin Fine Art is pleased to announce a solo exhibition of recent work by Shawn Huckins. The exhibition marks the artist's first solo show at the gallery and highlights new paintings from the artist's ongoing series entitled, **The American ___tier**.

Huckins subject matter is taken from images of 19th century American paintings and photographs currently residing in the public domain. After meticulously recreating the image on canvas the artist superimposes text taken from the communiqués of the 21st century that have been mined from the Internet. Random facebook posts, tweets, and text messaging charge the paintings with a satirical commentary on social media and how we communicate today. However, the paintings are not meant to be pedantic or judgmental. They are at times humorous and irreverent when mashed up against a George Caleb Bingham painting depicting the possible plight of Mississippi boatmen commandeering a makeshift raft down the river, or a portrait by Rembrandt Peale of a genteel woman with lace bonnet sitting upright in a velvet armchair, an emblazoned message across her visage that is quite inconceivable to imagine as having been uttered by the sitter.

Huckins does not entirely dismiss or embrace the notion of the current "decline" of our language. He manages to examine both sides of the issue as he conveys in his statement on the series

American ___tier.

"But who are we to say that "twerk" and "selfie" are not valid forms of communication? These additions do not signify the death of the English language, but perhaps are indicative of a growing and evolving method of communication which changes as does our world.....old methods of communication, may have intelligently and clearly exhibited passion, courage, and connection, while today's digital-speak can only provide a glimpse into the human psyche.... If Lewis and Clark could comment today, would they click the "like" button or post "wtf?" and then go check their Miley Cyrus tweet?"

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Huckins interest in painting began early in life after inheriting his Grandmother's painting set at the age of nine. As a college student Huckins initially studied Architecture and Film, later switching to Studio Arts. Since graduating from Keene State College Huckins has taken inspiration from 18th Century American Neo-Classical painters to 20th Century Pop artists and preoccupied his work with a contemporary discourse on American culture.

His work has appeared in various notable publications such as Hi-Fructose Volume 32; Issue 98 of New American Paintings (2012); and Art Ltd. Magazine (May/June 2012). Shawn Huckins paintings are included in numerous private collections in both the United States and Europe.

