



PETER GALLO

17 March – 20 May 2016

Monday – Friday 10.30 – 19.00

Anthony Reynolds Gallery is proud to present its second solo exhibition of the works of Peter Gallo.

Our 'residency' at **àngels barcelona** is part of our continuing programme of collaborations and interventions as an international itinerant gallery. The exhibition follows the recent major exhibition of Ian Breakwell's work at the **Independent** space in Brussels

We chose **Peter Gallo** for this adventure for three principal reasons: first, **Gallo** is an artist of real importance to the contemporary psyche. Secondly, **àngels** is a gallery resolutely focused on new media, performance and the photographic or moving image; as an apparently rude interloper in this family, a true painter can provoke fascinating questions regarding the symbiotic relationship of medium and content. And finally, the Spanish passion for painting, and particularly the representational capacity of the material of paint, presents an intriguing context for **Gallo's** work.

Peter Gallo is a 56-year-old painter from North Vermont, near the Canadian border. His semi-rural isolation, his apparent use of discarded matter, and his previous long-term employment as a psychiatric care worker point to an outsider categorization which is absolutely incorrect. For **Gallo** is an artist equally at home with Ryman and Beuys, Kant and Goethe, Joy Division and Dusty Springfield, Mephistopheles and St Augustine, Eros and Thanatos. Philosophical references rise and fall. A regularly recurring motif in **Gallo's** work is the ship of fools, Foucault's *Stultifera Navis*, a three-masted schooner fashioned out of the slightest of mark-making, passing through a body of colour, a mist, a dissembling skin; a phantom ferry bearing the discarded wisdom of the mad and the wild.

Gallo has written a doctoral thesis entitled *Bioaesthetics and the Artist as Case History*, its title alone asserting the crucial foundation for his work: the relationship between the body of the artist and its telos. The torn, the scarred, the wounded and the stitched are not expressionist gestures but representations. And in generating his representations **Gallo** deploys an extraordinary sophistication of reference, association, evocation; and touch. The thought, the word and the hand that writes it are one with the eye, the image, and the hand that paints it.

Most of the works in the show are from the last two years and are being shown for the first time. This is **Gallo's** first exhibition in Spain. We are thrilled that this exhibition should take place at **àngels barcelona**, one of the most enterprising and progressive galleries in Spain. **Gallo** is already represented in collections in Spain and in important collections in the United Kingdom, France, Switzerland, Germany, Ireland, Belgium, the United States and Japan.