



135 W 29th, Suite 601, New York, NY 10001
Gallery hours: Tuesday-Saturday 12-6 p.m.
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EXHIBITION DATES:
October 5-29, 2010

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Presences from the 21st Century: Paintings by William Oberst

An exhibition of narrative oil paintings by William Oberst will be on view at Atlantic Gallery from October 5 to 29, 2010. An opening reception will be held on October 5 from 6 to 8 p.m., with a closing reception on October 29 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Oberst paints in the New Old Master style. His subjects—people shown only slightly smaller than life size—frequently make eye contact with the viewer as they pause in sometimes disquieting moments from daily life.

The critic Keith Shaw, writing in the Berkshire Eagle, described Oberst's work as "a quiet synthesis of photorealism and Georges de la Tour," where figures are "frozen in an unscripted narrative full of private psychology." The seeming naturalism of the paintings belies what are actually highly constructed images. Rarely were the flesh-and-blood subjects of Oberst's pictures ever in the locations he depicts, for example.

In his scenes, a mother comforts a child; a man with a blanket approaches a woman from behind; a diner waitress shoots a penetrating stare at the viewer. Mystery and complexity underlie the simplest of gestures.

Gouache studies of men, women, and children are also on view. Some are preparatory renderings of larger oils on display.

Oberst is a self-taught artist who learned his method of layer-painting by studying masterworks in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, supplemented by reading and experimenting. He has shown individual works at New York City venues such as Atlantic Gallery (June-July 2010) and NYU's Gallatin Galleries (November 2009-January 2010), and participated in solo and group exhibitions throughout the region. He maintains a studio-residence in downtown North Adams, Massachusetts.

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Atlantic Gallery specializes in contemporary art and photography and is located on the sixth floor of 135 West 29th Street, between Sixth and Seventh Avenues. Nearby subways include the 1 and the 9 at 28th and Sixth and the A, C, F, R, 2 and 3 at 34th Street Station. For more information or to arrange a viewing, please call Sonni Burroughs at 212-219-3183.