



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EXHIBITION:  
Nick Doyle | STEVEN

DATES:  
October 17 – November 23, 2014

RECEPTION:  
Friday, October 17: 6-8pm

INVISIBLE-EXPORTS is pleased to present, “Steven,” the first solo exhibition of work at the gallery by Nick Doyle.

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Doyle grew up in Los Angeles, in what he describes as “a space of double history” – an environment suffused with cinematic memories not his own through which he nevertheless found himself projecting his own semi-cinematic fantasies. “My psyche was fused with an awareness of my own image as if I were not only in these films but that my life could be understood as if it were a movie,” he says. “Mood, lighting, stage, set, became the structure of my memory and the terms within which my perspective is informed.” Over time, he came to see even those narrative tools foreign to him as the most useful ones with which to explore and push back against self-alienation, and “to confront the viewer,” he says, “with the position of ‘Steven/myself.’”

“Steven” is Doyle’s alter-ego, doppelganger, ventriloquist dummy, identity experiment, digital projection, drone clone, Mars rover, and bête noire. The work in which the character appears – and through which he travels – is an elaborate, multi-part, obsessively-assembled diorama-like fantasy-land, patch-worked haphazardly together like a vintage low-budget sci-fi serial, unfolding, in fact, in the familiar, intimidating and distressing present. “Steven” acts out scenes while Doyle directs. But “Steven” is a temperamental star, and is prone to outbursts.

A meticulous, cinematic trompe-l’oeil universe and comic parable-in-parts, “Steven” is also, Doyle says, a deeply personal response to a prolonged romance with apathy – what Doyle calls the “empty and location-less sadness” that forms as “a common reaction to the social stigmatism of ‘culture.’” “If one were to read culture as an expression of humanity, one could not help but feel an overwhelming futility in existence and a sense of reasonless amorality. Apathy often acts as a barrier to insulate and protect the self but the general result is a sense of deep and unrelenting hopelessness.” A fictional travelogue of indeterminate length, scope, and purpose, “Steven” is a pop fantasy of barrier-transgressing, open-eyed exploration, a picture of the way we might traverse the unforgiving world if it could actually cushion our falls. And not just a personal fantasia, but a network of local and cultural mythologies unfolding on both the grandest scale and the most self-mocking, self-undermining – a major new body of work, conceived in startlingly coherent whole.

Doyle completed his MFA at Hunter College in December of 2013 and was the recipient of the C12 Emerging Artists Fellowship, nominated by MoMA Curator Laura Hoptman, Artforum senior editor Michelle Kuo, and philanthropist Peter Brant. He recently returned from a residency at Skowhegan. His work has been exhibited at Socrates Sculpture Park, 7Eleven Gallery, among others.

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INVISIBLE-EXPORTS is located at 89 Eldridge Street, just south of Grand Street. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 11am-6pm, and by appointment. For more information, call 212-226-5447 or email: [info@invisible-exports.com](mailto:info@invisible-exports.com).