

White Noise

MFA Thesis Exhibition by Chris Cohen

22 April – 25 May 2019

Opening Reception: 22 April 2019, 5-7p

HARRISONBURG, VA — Duke Hall Gallery of Fine Art at James Madison University presents *White Noise* the thesis exhibition presented by MFA candidate Chris Cohen. The exhibition will include Cohen's work in ceramics, photography, painting and installation. *White Noise* focuses on Cohen's tenuous relationship with his own identity as a white, southern, American male. Cohen turns his eye on issues such as the writing (and re-writing) of history, cultural and racial supremacy, white identity politics, racism, religious fundamentalism and family loyalty.

A portion of the work exhibited in *White Noise* was included in *Spring/Break Art Show* in New York City last month. Beyond getting recognition in *Art News* and *The Art Newspaper*, among others, the event provided Cohen with an opportunity to reconsider the presentation of his thesis as an interactive experience for gallery visitors and a possible locus for discussion of these difficult issues. Cohen hopes that by implicating himself in this narrative, and by opening a dialogue, that constructive reflection can come out of the white noise which currently stands in for public debate on these topics.

ABOUT THE ARTIST //

Chris Cohen is an MFA Candidate in Studio Art at James Madison University in his final year of the program. He obtained a BA in Studio Art (Painting/Printmaking) from Yale University in 1993. Cohen lives and works in Lynchburg, VA and Harrisonburg, VA. Cohen has been in higher ed since 2005 as an adjunct professor at Randolph College, Lynchburg College, Randolph-Macon Woman's College, and as an instructor at James Madison University. He has been in several group shows throughout Virginia and his work is represented in the Collection of the Maier Museum in Lynchburg, VA.

EVENTS //

22 APR 2019, 5-7p: Opening Reception: *White Noise*: Chris Cohen

@ Duke Hall Gallery of Fine Art

24 APR 2019, 4.30p: Chris Cohen Gallery Talk

@ Duke Hall Gallery of Fine Art

25 APR 2019, 5p: Chris Cohen Artist Lecture

@ Duke Hall Room 1032

03 MAY 2019, 5-8p: GALLERY OPEN FOR FIRST FRIDAY

GALLERY INFO //

Duke Hall Gallery of Fine Art's mission is to present the highest level of fine art experiences and to create an active space for robust discourse of vital issues facing our society. It is a space where the local and academic community share ideas about contemporary art and our wider cultural experiences. Art breaks barriers between languages and brings us together to be inspired and knowledgeable citizens, no matter where we come from.

EXHIBITION GALLERY HOURS //

23 APR - 04 MAY / TUE-SAT 11-5p
08-25 MAY / WED-SAT 12-3p

WEB / jmu.edu/dukehallgallery
/ chrisncohen.com

SOCIAL / @dukehallgallery #WhiteNoise #SADAHMFA #ChrisCohen

CONTACT / John Ros
Director and Chief Curator, Duke Hall Gallery of Fine Art
e / rosjm@jmu.edu
o / 540-568-6407