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For Immediate Release

July 26, 2013

Gregory Michael Hernandez

Angelus

September 14 – October 26, 2013

Opening Reception: Saturday, September 14th 6-8pm

Roberts & Tilton is pleased to present *Angelus*, an exhibition of new work by Gregory Michael Hernandez. *Angelus* is an investigation into Hernandez's interest in the human impulse to map, interpret and represent our environment and ourselves. He is particularly interested in the ways that visual information is manipulated to correspond with bias and assumptions.



Gregory Michael Hernandez
The Angelus Army (detail), 2013
Hand cut c-prints, 40 x 204 in (101.6 x 518.16 cm)

Angelus explores the contrast between the built environment and the empty canvas through the dichotomy between the "city" (specific locations within Los Angeles) and the "desert" (the wilderness east of Twentynine Palms, California in the Mojave Desert). The city of Los Angeles features prominently, both as subject and, more literally, an object: broken sidewalks and curbs were pulverized to rubble and reconstituted with Portland Cement to create paintings and a sculpture.

By mapping perspective, as in his *Captive Universe* series, Hernandez creates a cartographic system for translating a specific point of view and turning it inside out. Hernandez takes particular interest in the perceptual grids that we personally navigate and create, as well as the cultural and political grids that give form to society, value, class structure, economics and religion.

Contemporary issues of labor and immigration are evoked in the 17-foot-long photographic collage titled *The Angelus Army*. The work features a friend of the artist taking the pose of the male figure in Jean-Francois Millet's famous painting *The Angelus*. Hernandez and his collaborator worked to create a circular grid of 252 precise points, staked in the desert landscape. His friend held the "Angelus" pose in each spot while Hernandez photographed each one from a point in the center of the field. The final work of art is comprised of 252 portraits pieced together like a jigsaw puzzle, creating a flurry of vanishing points across a sprawling 360-degree panorama.

In From the Wilderness is another temporary landscape installation that is 'immortalized' and given new form through photography. The artist built a labyrinth in perspective, so that the eight concentric rings appear to be the same height and distance away when viewed from the center of the labyrinth. To accomplish this, the actual rings are progressively larger and farther apart. The rings of the labyrinth were made of a former wooden fence (salvaged from the yard of the artist's grandmother, who lost her home in the devastating Sayre Fire of 2008) and assembled on a dry lakebed. The one-day installation was cartographically photographed by applying the mathematical coordinates and 405 pie shapes of the "Circular Mound Altar" in Beijing, China as an imaginary overlay.

City and desert merge and overlap. Points of view twist and segment, inviting closer inspection. This calls into question the veracity of mapped environments in general and the relevance of our place in them in particular.

Gregory Michael Hernandez received his B.S. in Drawing and Painting from Biola University in La Mirada, CA. In 2013 he was awarded a grant by the Rema Hort Mann Foundation, and in 2011 he received an Emerging Artist Fellowship from the California Community Foundation. In 2012 Hernandez was an Artist in Residence at One Colorado, Pasadena, CA in conjunction with the Armory Center for the Arts, as well as a Visual Artist Network resident at MACLA in San Jose, CA. He lives and works in Los Angeles.

For additional information, please contact Mary Skarbek at mary@robertsandtilton.com or 323.549.0223.

Gallery hours are Tuesday – Saturday, 11:00am – 6:00pm.

Roberts & Tilton is located between Fairfax Avenue and La Cienega Boulevard.

Parking is available on the street and at Dunn Edwards located 1/2 block east of the gallery.

Special thanks to Kirin.