

809



MORRIS FOX: EMERALD CITY

Calgary, 10th February 2012 – For immediate release

EVENT: Morris Fox: Emerald City

DATE: 13 January, 2012 – 11 February, 2012

AT: 809, 809 5th Avenue NW Calgary, AB

OPENING RECEPTION: Friday 10th 2012, 8PM

EMERALD CITY is

AUTHORITY: trumpeting that the rule of one is better than the freedom of all, the voice of one is like a god upon earth.

DESIRES: burning for peace and justice make us susceptible to the promise of order, ready to sacrifice our individualities to the grand design.

DIVINE RIGHT: asserted by authority, manipulating our perceptions with smoke and mirrors.

DREAMS: float by, filled with the beauty of legend and myth, and we forget these are the foundations on which empires are built.

GREEN: associated with nature, regeneration and rebirth, this is also the color of money, sickness, envy, death and the devil, of the khaki that clothes the warriors of militaristic regimes, yet the “third ray” of creative intelligence is a green ray.

MACHINES: dazzle us with their efficiency, their modernity, their power so that we willingly become cogs in the grandeur of the mechanism.

MILITANCE: invokes the safety of the citizens to justify limiting the freedom of the individual, while the police and military patrol the state, pacifying resistance to authority, declaring war on its enemies

809 5th AVENUE NW CALGARY ALBERTA T2N 0R5 HOURS: FRIDAY – 8-11PM, SATURDAY – BY APPOINTMENT, SUNDAY AFTERNOON TEA AND ARTIST TALK– 1-5PM
W: [HTTP://WWW.EIGHTONINE.CA](http://www.eightonine.ca) E: EIGHTONINE@GMAIL.COM

MONEY: literalizes power, and pretends to circulate, yet ends in the pockets of the elite, while those who have given away their true power are distracted by frivolous materialism, the kind of happiness money can buy.

UTOPIA: is nowhere, yet proclaimed by authority as its dwelling, the edifice it is building for its desirable citizens, the architecture of the promised bright future.

YOUTH: alone possesses strength and beauty, made vulnerable by hope and inexperience, and is impressed to lend its glamour to the youth soldier, the youth policier, the gangs that rove the streets.

EMERALD CITY embodies our dreams, desires and idealism, admitting the nightmarish realities that come when these utopias are usurped by our greed, our desire for security, or pinning our communal hopes on a single saviour who wields great power.

EMERALD CITY plays with specific historical references that reveal us launching ourselves towards disaster, taking the 1930's and 1940's as case studies of liberal ideology subverted by the authoritarian, Fascist, Communist and Totalitarian regimes which commit atrocities in the name of progress, blighting the present in the service of a "brighter" future.

EMERALD CITY focuses on the vulnerability of youth, the most impressionable and idealistic age group, from Soviet Pioneers, Nazi Youth Brigades, American Boy Scouts, to Belgian Navy Cadets and Cambodian Youth Soldiers. These hopeful images of brave comrades in arms, moving in disciplined unison, filled with hope can reveal the dark propaganda that clouds freedom of thought and expression.

EMERALD CITY uncovers the parallels between these historical groups, so comfortably situated in the past, and our contemporary political states, where the same dreams and nightmares recur.

MORRIS FOX was trained at the School of Fine Arts of Concordia University in Montreal. His work deals with mankind's tumultuous relationship with history, myth-making, with the alienation of teenage dreams, the quiet devastation of growing up, and the ratiocinative tension between mythic progress and the decayed decadence of society on the edge of ruin.

Morris Fox's work has been featured in group shows at Concordia (2009) and at Gallery Gallerie (2010), as well as in Toronto's Nuit Blanche (2011). In his recent solo show (December, 2011) at Toronto's Gallery 345, "ABC Mythologie", he conjured a legendary world inhabited by monsters and dangerous god-like youths, spun around obscure stories and interpersonal histories. The series of paintings were linked to retro found-object sculptures, offering a glimpse into a time-scarred world that is careening towards disaster. "Emerald City" is the fruit of his current residency (January-February 2012) at Calgary's Gallery Eightohnine.