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BRAD KAHLHAMER ***Almost American*** **May 5 – June 30, 2001**

Almost American, an exhibition of new paintings and drawings by Brad Kahlhamer opens on Saturday, May 5th at Deitch Projects' 18 Wooster Street gallery. The critic Michael Cohen describes Kahlhamer's work as "a new narrative of how the West was won that allows the original inhabitants to live to tell the tale." The artist fuses an exuberant embrace of expressionist painting with the visionary tradition of Native American art.

Kahlhamer's new paintings are more reckless and unrestrained than his previous work. The gestures are more direct and less filtered. The work is more raw and more aggressive. The artist's visionary landscapes swirl with an atavistic energy.

The great American bald eagle sweeps through the paintings almost as a surrogate for the artist, representing his immersion into his personal American landscape. The works are populated with an unruly cast of characters, dead and alive, from the artist's life and from his imagination. Kahlhamer has created his own world in these paintings mixing representations of the real into a visionary "third place," as the artist describes it.

The paintings seem to have a sound that accompanies their visual rhythm. Kahlhamer is also an active musician and the paintings are constructed with the visual equivalent of music and lyrics. The paintings are like songs, similar in their structure to the artist's country-western musical compositions.

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Kahlhamer's paintings are developed from his drawings, and they increasingly reflect the directness and the fluidity of his graphic style. He has installed an "eagle's nest" of powerful ink drawings in the mezzanine overlooking the gallery.

A survey exhibition of Kahlhamer's work which was presented earlier this year at the Madison Art Center opens on June 1st at the Aspen Art Museum. A catalogue with essays by Sara Krajewski and Laura Hoptman accompanies the exhibition. During the past year, Kahlhamer also had exhibitions at the Galleria Francesca Kaufmann in Milan and at Modern Art in London. This is his second exhibition at Deitch Projects.

GALLERY HOURS 12 – 6, TUESDAY – SATURDAY
OFFICE HOURS 10 – 6, MONDAY - SATURDAY
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