

76 GRAND STREET NEW YORK NY 10013



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TED MINEO

HAPPY SAD

MARCH 29 – April 28, 2007

76 GRAND STREET

Deitch Projects is pleased to present *Happy Sad*, the first New York solo exhibition by Ted Mineo. *Happy Sad* features an ambitious new painting entitled *Inside Looking Out*.

Ted Mineo creates poetic pop paintings from the stuff that synthetic dreams are made of. Repackaging elements of modern life, Ted Mineo references various cosmologies whose influences shape the American imagination – religious iconography, the world of Walt Disney, science fiction, household kitchen appliance design, food marketing, and the city of New Orleans. Through these appropriations the artist is attempting to understand the formation of contemporary American identity.

The two paintings making up *Inside Looking Out* face each other in dialogue. Each painting depicts an interior space captured at different points in time. Light dances, plants grow, and all bask in golden light. "Happy" shows the space with windows open, letting in daylight. In "Sad", the

space is violently ripped apart- debris flies everywhere. A blue light comes from outside, and the golden glow is cast across the room from the other painting. In one painting, illumination comes from within, while it penetrates from outside in the other. Situated between them, viewers are invited to engage with feeling and rediscover themselves, standing between comedy and tragedy, happiness and sadness.

Ted Mineo draws stylistic references from sources ranging from Pinocchio-era Walt Disney animation to Dutch genre painters. Both sources present highly romanticized, fake or unknowable worlds. Ted Mineo also uses tromp l'oeil illusionism to create dense objects embedded with hidden images and meanings. The discovery of a face or a message within his work is part of Ted Mineo's exploration of the transformative power of images and objects- whether groping with the concept of transubstantiation or the designs of Escher, his works reflect a focus on the shifting meanings of things.

Ted Mineo was born New Orleans, Louisiana in 1981). He studied at the Maryland Institute College of Art, earning a BFA in 2002. In 2004, he received an MFA in Painting from Yale University. Mineo lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

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