

Craig Kucia

Unnatural Disasters

17 November – 15 December 2018

Ibid Gallery is pleased to present *unnatural disasters*, a solo exhibition by artist Craig Kucia, curated by John Wolf. *unnatural disasters* will be on view 17 November – 15 December 2018 with an opening Saturday, November 17th, from 6 to 9 PM.

Craig Kucia's practice integrates his blue-collar Midwestern upbringing with a rigorous art historical training. The synthesis of these seemingly disparate worlds leads to compositions that reference, among other things, 1970s and 80s Americana, teenage skate culture, Philip Guston, Herman Melville, and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. *unnatural disasters* is Kucia's attempt to investigate his own culpability and responsibility in the world around him. Small, manmade calamities mingle with tragedies on a grander scale and leave room for personal exploration. The work, for Kucia, remains unfinished until the viewer's own narrative completes it. *unnatural disasters* is also an investigation by Kucia into his life and artistic training in a pre-internet world, fused with the modern digital age and its imposed visual vernacular. This exhibition illustrates what scientist and psychologist Carl R. Rogers stated in his understanding of humanity, "*What is most personal is most universal.*"

Using a variety of techniques, Kucia at once encourages this reading of the work and obstructs its legibility. Intricate compositions are layered literally and metaphorically, deliberately obfuscating understanding, and forcing the viewer back into his or her own experience. For Kucia, interaction, not comprehension, is paramount.

Craig Kucia was born in Cleveland, Ohio. He studied at the Edinburgh College of Art, the Cleveland Institute of Art (BFA 1999), and the Chelsea College of Arts, London. Solo exhibitions included Blum & Poe, Los Angeles, CA; Kevin Bruk Gallery, Miami, FL; and Shaheen Gallery, Cleveland, OH. Group exhibitions include Greene Naftali, New York, NY; Marlborough Gallery, New York, NY; and Roberts & Tilton, Los Angeles, CA. His work is held in public and private collections including the Progressive Art Collection, Cleveland, OH; Perez Art Museum, Miami, FL; High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA; and the Mugar Family Collection. Kucia currently lives and works in Los Angeles, CA. *unnatural disasters* is the artist's first exhibition with Ibid Gallery.

Ibid Gallery

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Tuesday – Saturday, 11am – 6pm