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LAWRENCE GIPE

One Picture and the Next Three
9 January – 10 February 2007



Lombardsbrücke, 1938, 2006, oil on canvas, 60" x 84"



Iran, 1946, 2006, oil on canvas, 60" x 84"

Alexander Gray Associates is pleased to present new paintings by Lawrence Gipe. Gipe emerged in the late 1980s with paintings that were lauded for their visual punch and political content. For the past 15 years, Gipe has explored the porous and interchangeable nature of authoritarian tropes throughout the 20th Century; specifically, the visual manifestation of war through mass-produced propaganda. Gipe reenacts images from such sources, reframing them within the context of contemporary life and the history of painting.

In *One Picture and the Next Three* Lawrence Gipe appropriates photographic images by David Douglas Duncan as oil paintings, continuing his strategy of severing historical images from their original, politically-charged contexts. Known for his iconic photographs of Pablo Picasso, Duncan's lesser-known corpus of photojournalism captured the complexities of the post-War transitions in Europe, the Middle East and Asia for *Life* magazine in the late 1940s.

Providing a pre-War context for the Duncan images, the exhibition includes *Brücke, 1938*, in which Gipe reworks a Nazi-produced image of workers walking through Hamburg on the cusp of World War II. With a seductive style and cool eye, Gipe builds a sequence of images that synthesizes his concerns about political dynamics and social expectations. *Iran, 1948* appropriates a Duncan image of a group of nomadic horsemen, known historically as the "Rifles of Allah." *Palestine, 1946* presents another crowded view—boats of European Jews arriving in what will become the State of Israel. A third painting, *Saudi Arabia, 1948*, transforms Duncan's image of Americans playing golf on a makeshift course amidst the trans-Arabian oil pipeline in Saudi Arabia, offering a subversive view of mid-Century American economic dominance. Gipe's realist style of painting builds on art historical antecedents, including 19th Century European Academic, American Revolutionary-era, and Soviet-era painting; as well as his Post-Modernist peers, notably 1980s figures such as Robert Longo, Barbara Kruger, and Mark Tansey.

With each image, Gipe's painting coolly anticipates change—social and political—without offering a point of view or position. Selecting content particularly relevant to current global political crisis, each painting provides viewers with images of war and exile that extend beyond a Twentieth Century framework. Through Gipe's work, viewers are reminded that today's current political struggles—global and local—are not set in a vacuum of contemporary life, but rather, like painting itself, are part of a historical trajectory.

Gipe holds a BFA from Virginia Commonwealth University and an MFA from Otis/Parsons Institute. In 2006, his work was the subject of a mid-career survey organized by Marilyn Zeitlin at the University Art Museum at Arizona State University. He has exhibited internationally, including solo museum exhibitions at the Laguna Art Museum, Laguna Beach, CA; Amerika-Haus, Berlin; Worcester Art Museum, Worcester, MA; Kunstverein Düsseldorf; and The Chrysler Museum, Norfolk, VA. His work is in numerous public collections, including The Brooklyn Museum of Art, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, San Jose Museum of Art, Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Yale University Library, Zimmerli Archive-Rutgers University, Boise Art Museum, Cincinnati Art Museum, and the Norton Museum of Art, Palm Beach. Gipe lives in Santa Barbara, California, and teaches at the University of Arizona, Tucson.

Alexander Gray Associates is a contemporary art gallery and advising firm based in New York. Our exhibition program focuses on mid-career visual artists who emerged in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s. Through consulting and collection advising, we provide expertise and educational experiences for our individual and corporate clients. Our ultimate goal is to provide a direct experience with Modern and contemporary art that encourages discourse around art's role in the advancement of culture. Gallery hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 11 AM – 6 PM.