

BILL BRADY / KC

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Lucien Smith: *Scrap Metal*

28 June – 20 August 2013

OPENING RECEPTION 28 June, 6-9 PM

“Scrap Metal” is the title of Lucien Smith's upcoming exhibition at Bill Brady/KC. While the show incorporates a variety of paintings, the focus is on a collection of readymade sculptures sourced from the annual Knob Creek Machine Gun Shoot, which occurs each April in West Point, Kentucky. The objects re-contextualized here in a gallery setting range from automobiles to propane tanks to oil drums and other domestic items: all shot to smithereens with thousands of rounds of ammunition. For three days this past spring, these pieces were targets in a field where a wide array of weaponry fired upon them: handguns, assault rifles, fully automatic rifles and even a fully restored Gatling Gun from the Spanish American War.

If the remains had not been sequestered by the artist, they would most certainly end up recycled as scrap metal at the local junk yard. To almost comic effect, the damage inflicted upon the objects is immediately apparent, revealing a level of violence many Americans never witness firsthand. In person the bullet-ridden sculptures can feel fictitious as if cartoon depictions rendered in three dimensions. And yet in many instances an organic quality bordering somewhere between coral and pumice stone emerges. The visual draw of these pieces triggers a complicated response in the viewer where one questions their own complicity in appreciating the beauty of such destruction when gun control is such a hot button issue in America.

Complimenting the shot-up readymades are a pair of large scale camouflage paintings inspired by Japanese sumi-e ink calligraphy and Hokusai's famous *The Great Wave at Kanagawa*. Perhaps a knee-jerk association would be Warhol's foray into camouflage, but Lucien Smith's iterations are loaded with additional layers of cultural baggage, elevating them beyond natural disguise. Less prominently displayed is an old MasterCard advertisement also recycled here, but on canvas. The text proclaims that possessing their credit card is “a bit like saying please with a gun in your hand.” MasterCards copy is initially quite jarring in the midst of the other artwork on display, but reminds us that society's attitude towards firearms has fluctuated wildly over the centuries and that issues around the Second Amendment are as polarizing today as they were to our founding fathers.

For more information, please contact Ahram by calling +1 (816) 527-0090 or emailing info@billbradykc.com

Exhibition Checklist
Lucien Smith: Scrap Metal

1.
*All streams run to the sea, but the sea is not full;
to the place where the streams flow, there they
flow again, 2013*
Enamel on Canvas
96"x131" in.

2.
*When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you, 2013*
Enamel on Canvas
96"x131" in.

3.
Stop the police – Serve the people (Sun), 2013
Enamel on Canvas
45"x57" in.

4.
*The sound of the engine still running and for the last
time they locked eyes, together again in the end, 2013*
Steel
68"x208"x78" in.

5.
Untitled (Scrap Metal 4419), 2013
Oil Drum
28x31x30 in.

6.
It's a bit like... If the price is right, 2013
Inkjet Print on Canvas
84"x113" in.

7.
A River Runs Through It, 2013
Enamel on Canvas
96"x131" in.

8.
Spin cycle, 2013
Steel
33"x65" in.

9.
Untitled (Rust on Grey), 2013
Aluminum
50"x42"x8" in.

10.
Untitled (Wheel), 2013
Steel
12"x19"x8" in.

11.
Blue Crush, 2013
Steel
8"x28" in.

12.
Orange Crush, 2013
Steel
10.5"x37.5" in.

13.
Untitled (Shooting Stars 1, 2, 3), 2013
Shooting Target
24"x15.75" in. (framed)

14.
Untitled (Scrap Metal 4290), 2013
Propane Canister
10x16x10 in.

15.
Untitled (Scrap Metal 4315), 2013
Propane Canister
17x10x10 in.

16.
Untitled (Scrap Metal 4274), 2013
Propane Canister
18x12x12 in.

17.
Untitled (Scrap Metal 4277), 2013
Propane Canister
15x16x9 in.

18.
Untitled (Scrap Metal 4301), 2013
Propane Canister
14x12x10 in.

19.
Untitled (Scrap Metal 4304), 2013
Propane Canister
10x17x10 in.

20.
Untitled (Scrap Metal 4310), 2013
Propane Canister
17x10x10 in.

21.
Untitled (Scrap Metal 4320), 2013
Propane Canister
13x10x10 in.

22.
Untitled (Scrap Metal 4323), 2013
Propane Canister
17x12x12 in.

23.
Untitled (Scrap Metal 4335), 2013
Propane Canister
20x12x12 in.

24.
Untitled (Scrap Metal 4319), 2013
Propane Canister
17x10x10 in.

25.
Untitled (Scrap Metal 4328), 2013
Propane Canister
18x12x12 in.

26.
Untitled (Scrap Metal 4333), 2013
Propane Canister
17x10x9 in.

27.
Untitled (Scrap Metal 4341), 2013
Propane Canister
18x12x12 in.

28.
Untitled (Scrap Metal 4343), 2013
Propane Canister
18x12x12 in.

29.
Untitled (Scrap Metal 4345), 2013
Propane Canister
18x12x12 in.

30.
Untitled (Scrap Metal 4348), 2013
Propane Canister
16x10x10 in.

31.
Untitled (Scrap Metal 4354), 2013
Propane Canister
18x12x12 in.

32.
Untitled (Scrap Metal 4356), 2013
Propane Canister
17x13x12 in.

33.
Untitled (Scrap Metal 4358), 2013
Propane Canister
17x13x12 in.

34.
Untitled (Scrap Metal 4362), 2013
Propane Canister
10x16x10 in.

35.
Untitled (Scrap Metal 4369), 2013
Propane Canister
18x12x12 in.

36.
Untitled (Scrap Metal 4371), 2013
Propane Canister
18x12x12 in.

37.
Untitled (Scrap Metal 4372), 2013
Propane Canister
17x13x12 in.

38.
Untitled (Scrap Metal 4376), 2013
Propane Canister
18x12x12 in.

39.
Untitled (Scrap Metal 4380), 2013
Propane Canister
18x12x12 in.

40.
Untitled (Scrap Metal 4366), 2013
Propane Canister
15x34x14 in.

41.
Untitled (Scrap Metal 4384), 2013
Propane Canister
9x24x16 in.

42.
Untitled (Scrap Metal 4446), 2013
Steel
18x20x23 in.