

Big Rock Candy Mountain *New work by Tony Fitzpatrick*

On view April 1 – May 16, 2009

Opening reception for the artist April 1, 6-8PM

April 1, 2009. Dieu Donn  is pleased to present *Big Rock Candy Mountain*, an exhibition of new collages created by **Tony Fitzpatrick** during the artist's Lab Grant residency.

The collages are cobbled together from vintage print ephemera and handmade paper with splendor and precision; they are visual poems, reflecting on matters of place, history, and sense of being. *Big Rock Candy Mountain* delves deep into the transient nature of Depression-era hobos. Here, their language, ideograms, battles, and songs resound throughout the intimate works. The lore of the vagrant hobo complements Fitzpatrick's ongoing romance with the cities of Chicago, New Orleans and Brooklyn. The exhibition embarks upon the roads, towns, and train tracks that lie within and between metropolises, futhering the artist's depiction of America. His voice references both the historic and current, as the culture surrounding hobo lore may now become parallel to our own. Reflecting on hobo iconography, Fitzpatrick writes:

"[It] is no accident that one of the largest Hobo 'Jungles' lined west Madison street in Chicago and another lined the newly built levee system in New Orleans-- an American sub-culture was born in the wake of the civil war; complete with its own slang-infused jargon and pictogram 'alphabet' scrawled on buildings and trestles all over our nation -- it was a codified language spoken by the dispossessed of our country-- a survival tool for hard-times ; not so much unlike now."

About the artist

Tony Fitzpatrick (b. 1958, Chicago) is an established actor, radio host, poet, and artist. As a self-taught renegade artist, his work is included in many important public institutions, including the Art Institute of Chicago, the Museum of Modern Art, the National Museum of American Art, Washington, D.C., the Museum of Contemporary Art, Miami, among others. Most recently, he participated in Prospect.1 New Orleans, the largest biennial of international contemporary art in America. Fitzpatrick's series *Chapel of Months*, created for biennial, illustrate his ability to imbue his artwork with the mythology of a storied city steeped in lore. He is represented in New York by Pierogi Brooklyn.



The Hobo's Broken Rosary, 2009.
Drawing collage, 10.5 x 7.5 inches.

Support

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