

“Heroes and Villains”
New Fabric Works by Gina Phillips
February 3rd-March 9, 2011



Jonathan Ferrara Gallery is pleased to present *Heroes and Villains*, new fabric works by Gina Phillips in her first solo exhibition with the gallery.

Heroes and Villains is a continuation of the visual narrative Phillips began with her 2010 solo show, *The Call of The Alluvial Empire*, at the Isaac Delgado Fine Art Gallery at Delgado College. Using a variety of media including fabric, thread, ink, paint, synthetic hair, glass beads, and feathers, Gina Phillips has created a story-telling installation that explores elements of innocence and brutality in primitive American culture in the Southern Delta.

Ultimately, Heroes and Villains is about dualism the great complement of benevolent and malignant forces. It's also about: opportunism, Schadenfreud, othering, betrayal, westward expansion, the triumph of nature over human folly, making lemonade out of lemons, if you can't beat 'em, join 'em!, picking up the pieces a grand scheme, a master plan, attraction/repulsion, domination/vulnerability, mortality, sex

I have to give credit to three sources of inspiration for this body of work: Theodorus de Bry was a 16th century, Belgian engraver who published several books illustrating the New World. His depictions of Native Americas were not based on firsthand observation. He relied on the descriptions and sketches of various explorers to create a fabricated vision of the Americas. Heroes and Villains is the name of one of the songs co-written by Brian Wilson and Van Dyke Parks on The Beach Boys album, Smile. Smile is a surf-rock opera about the significance of westward expansion in the formation of American identity. And, Richard Campanella's work, especially Time and Place in New Orleans: Past Geographies in the Present Day, describing the confluence of geography and human occupation in Southeast Louisiana, continues to fuel my imagination.

-Gina Phillips

Gina Phillips has a BFA from University of Kentucky and an MFA from Tulane University. Her work has been exhibited in galleries and museums across the country and her work is in numerous collections including University of Kentucky, Lexington, NASA, New Orleans Museum of Art, Ogden Museum of Southern Art, Frederick R. Weisman Art Foundation, Tulane University and House of Blues (various locations across US.)

GALLERY HOURS Monday - Saturday 11 am to 5pm

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