

September 21, 2015

Matt Damhave. Help Is On Delay

11 Sep — 24 Oct 2015 at White Columns Gallery in New York, United States



Installation view: Matt Damhave "Help is On Delay," September 11 – October 24, 2015, Courtesy of White Columns

White Columns is proud to present "Help Is On Delay" a solo exhibition by the New York-based artist Matt Damhave.

"The Edge... There is no honest way to explain it because the only people who really know where it is are the ones who have gone over. The others — the living — are those who pushed their luck as far as they felt they could handle it, and then pulled back, or slowed down, or did whatever they had to when it came time to choose between Now and Later." - Hunter S. Thompson

Matt Damhave's exhibition comprises a recent series of oil-on-canvas paintings and a selection of textile works created since 2012. Exploring the notion of the 'edge': the proverbial 'edge' addressed by Mr. Thompson in his now famous quote; the 'edge' that is hidden when a patch is applied to mend a hole; the 'edge' of information and technology, or the internet for that matter; and the 'edge' of the future, a future in which "no one has computers anymore." Working with a labor-intensive, pointillist approach to image-making that mirrors the pixilation of the screen, a recurring motif in these recent paintings is the character Yotsuba, a popular figure from the web subculture of 4chan, who often appears on "404 page not found" notifications. Elsewhere a stalwart image of the war resistance league – a broken rifle - is juxtaposed with William Burroughs sage advice to potential gun fighters: "TAKE YOUR TIME." Another key image in "Help Is On Delay" –of a crashed ambulance – amplifies the idea of fallibility that is central to Damhave's project: a notion evidenced in the repaired textile works (2012-15), each a visceral acknowledgement that everything remains in flux, in a state of entropy.

Matt Damhave (b. 1978) is a New York-based artist who studied at the Maryland Institute College of Art (1997-1999.) He was a co-founder of Imitation of Christ, and his own work has been exhibited in New York, Tokyo, Los Angeles, Mexico City, and Sao Paulo. He had a solo exhibition at New York's Half Gallery in 2008. He also makes audio and visual work under the name Unchi Neko.

White Columns would like to thank Bill Powers for his introduction to Matt.