

Jess Looking Past Seeing Through

January 16 – February 22, 2014

The Tibor de Nagy Gallery is pleased to present its fourth exhibition of works by the celebrated painter and collage artist Jess (Collins), a leading light of the 1950s Bay Area renaissance of artists and poets, and one of the most original American artists of the second half of the 20th century. The exhibition coincides with “An Opening of the Field: Jess, Robert Duncan, and Their Circle,” at the Grey Art Gallery, New York University, which explores one of the most productive artistic couples, often collaborators, and their milieu.

Jess is best known for his paste-ups and paintings that he referred to as his “salvages,” “translations,” and “romantic paintings.” His paste-ups are complicated Surrealist collages assembled using magazines, photographs, and any other material at hand. The “translations,” which comprise thirty-two paintings completed over thirty years, borrow images from a range of sources, including scientific illustrations, childhood photographs, and postcards. He used the term “salvages” for those works he created on paintings he found at thrift stores, or unfinished canvases of his own.

The exhibition will present a range of works from the 1950s to the 1990s, including seminal works from his oeuvre such as his first translation from 1959, and a rare 1954 collage from his *Tricky Cad* series. *Tricky Cad* was a series of collages in which words and images from Dick Tracy cartoons were rearranged into a garbled, Surrealist text. The series pre-figured Pop and is among the artist’s most significant series of early works.



Born Burgess Collins in Long Beach, California, he initially studied chemistry at the California Institute of Technology. He spent three years in the army at the Atomic Energy Laboratory, and had a small part in the Manhattan Project developing the first atom bomb. While working on an atomic energy project, he became disillusioned with science after having a nightmare about the world destroying itself, and instead turned to art.

Jess studied painting at the California School of Fine Arts (now the San Francisco Art Institute). His teachers included some of the most influential West Coast painters of the period, including David Park, Elmer Bischoff, and Clyfford Still. During this time, Jess met poet Robert Duncan, who would become his lifelong partner and frequent collaborator. They were an influential force in the San Francisco artistic community, who brought together painters and poets and organized exhibitions and readings.

For further information and visuals please contact 212.262.5050 or info@tibordenagy.com.

TIBOR DE NAGY GALLERY

Richard Baker *Holiday*

January 16 – February 22, 2014



The Tibor de Nagy Gallery is pleased to present an exhibition of new works by Richard Baker. It is the artist's fifth solo exhibition with the gallery and his first since 2010. The artist is known for his precise paintings of still lifes teetering uneasily in front of a landscape or cityscape. They often hold an inventory of objects including tulips, fruit, books, photographs, playing cards and martinis.

The artist has for many years created plaster sculptures objects that seem to have escaped the paintings and been animated with great verisimilitude. The objects have the uncanny ability to easily trick an unwitting viewer. The exhibition will include an array of these sculptures—donuts, Kit Kat bars, Hershey bars, Whoopee cushions, children's paddle games, Eggo waffles—arranged in a vitrine, as one might come across them lying on a table.

The exhibition comprises abstract and representational paintings and objects. Baker has done a number of trompe l'oeil paintings of single books that float against a ground. The show evinces a kind of freedom, a gathering together of the artist's various working modes. In a sense the artist is deliberately—and joyfully—taking a "holiday" from the pressures of manufacturing a style or of meaning.

Richard Baker has exhibited widely throughout the United States. He attended the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and the Maryland Institute, College of Art, Baltimore. He has been the recipient of numerous grants and awards including the Pollock Krasner Foundation Grant and the New England Foundation for the Arts Grant. He currently teaches at the Mason Gross School of Art at Rutgers University.

For further information and visuals please contact 212.262.5050 or info@tibordenagy.com.

TIBOR DE NAGY GALLERY