

JEF GUNN

LOKESHVARA MOONLIGHT

May 4 - 27, 2017

First Thursday Opening, May 4, 5-8pm

artist will be present



Jef Gunn, Summer Evening, 2017, Mixed media on panel, 54"h x 54"w

Traver Gallery is proud to present, Lokeshvara Moonlight by Jef Gunn.

Since his early career, Gunn has made use of found materials. Seeds and nutshells, stones, wood, and bits of iron all hold the opportunity to create marks in ink onto fine Chinese papers. This intuitive, repetitive and meditative process evolves into final compositions. The resulting

papers, rice-pasted or waxed to panels, echo the traditional mantras that are expressed in his forms.

This current exhibition is comprised of a series within a series - both make use of printing with found objects and involve practices of restraint, chance and precision. The Telling series incorporates organized printed forms of objects in arrangements of columns and rows. Telling is counting, as in a bank teller who counts the money, or a storyteller who recounts a story. The Restraint; Chance and Precision series wholly embraces the notion of randomness. From an early age, Gunn was motivated to create precise renditions of the seen world, and for years he has been deeply moved by the beauties of chance. The lightness with which a shadow falls just so, the shape of a coffee spill, or how the asphalt cracks over years of cold and heat.

As a long time practicing and self-described "lay Buddhist", Gunn's core motivation for this current body of work is the Lokeshvara - the meditations of the bodhisattva. For followers of this tradition, Lokeshvara is considered the embodiment (or expression) of the supreme principles of the world. It refers to the practice of seeing the distress of each being in the world and radiating loving kindness, transcendent compassion, and joy in order to release the particular suffering. This acute awareness seems to be particularly timely and comforting considering our current global humanitarian concerns.

Gunn holds a BFA from Marylhurst University, Portland, OR. He has been the recipient of international grants and awards, and has taught at numerous institutions including the Pacific Northwest College of Art, Portland, OR, the Oregon College of Art and Craft, Portland, OR, Pratt Fine Arts Center, Seattle, WA.

For additional information, please contact Traver Gallery at 206.587.6501 or info@travergallery.com