

Graham Gillmore

(Canadian, 1963 -)



Op Or Tunist, 2018
archival inkjet and aquatint
etching, ed. 80
image size: 34.5" x 25"
paper size: 40" x 30"

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Graham Gillmore was born in 1963 in North Vancouver. Following graduation from Emily Carr College of Art and Design in 1985, he and his art school colleagues found a studio on Cordova Street in Vancouver and the artistic group “Futura Bold” was born. Within a year, this creative force were included in the “Young Romantics” exhibition at the Vancouver Art Gallery and the careers of five of Canada’s most outstanding young artists were launched. Riding on the success of this initial exhibition, Gillmore moved to New York City. He is a painter best known for his vitriolic use of text as an art form within edgy and often controversial work. Since the mid-80s, he has exhibited annually and has developed a stellar reputation across Canada, the United States and in Europe.

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This recent body of work incorporates Graham’s ongoing interest in text as image, and how words can alter pre-existing meanings located within more conventional, figurative imagery. He is referring specifically to pictures collected from illustrated children’s books published in the 1950’s and 60’s, when he was a child. The prelapsarian images exude a certain quality of playfulness, innocence, optimism and utopian idealism which disappears as people grow older, past those carefree years, prior to any “official” experience of the world. They are symbolic of those fleeting moments in one’s life, prior to the inevitable trauma caused by future pain, loss and disappointment.

For more information on this work, or any of the prints from the AFK Editions, please contact:

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