

GAL- LERY SPAC E

1520 N. Cahuenga Blvd. Los Angeles CA 90028

THE COMPANY OF PEOPLE: GROUP EXHIBITION

January 23 – March 14, 2010

Opening Reception: 6 – 10pm, Saturday, January 23

The Company of People and Gallery Space are pleased to present *The Company of People Group Exhibition* curated by Landon Metz. Featuring work from Lizzi Bougatsos, Jonnie Craig, Liam Crockard, Hannah Metz, Landon Metz, Ben Schumacher, Mitchell Spider, Andrew Sutherland and Peter Sutherland with live performances by I.U.D. and O.G.O.D.

There's an Iroquois story of a girl who lived with her mother in a wigwam on the edge of a village. She was beautiful and constantly refused her suitors.

One day when she and her mother were out collecting wood far from the village, an ominous, unnatural darkness fell upon them. The mother said, "Let's gather some bark and make a wigwam for ourselves and collect wood for a fire, and we'll spend the night here."

After the mother falls asleep, the girl looks up to find a young man standing before her with a wampum sash and black feathers. He says to her, "I've come to marry you, and I'll await your reply." To which she responds, "I'll have to consult with my mother."

The mother approves, and he gives the mother his wampum belt to show he is serious in his proposal. Then says to the girl, "Tonight I would like you to come to my camp." She leaves with him.

When they arrive at his village they spend two nights and two days together, and on the third day he says to her, "I'm going off today to hunt." He leaves. She spends the day alone in the hut; when evening comes she hears a strange sound. The entrance flap opens and in slides a serpent. He puts his head on her lap and says to her, "Now search my head for lice." She does so and once she has killed them all, he leaves her. A moment later it opens again and in comes the young man. "Were you afraid of me when I came in that way just now?" he asks. "No," she replies, "I wasn't afraid at all."

The next day while he is out hunting again she leaves their lodge to gather firewood. She sees an enormous serpent basking on the rocks nearby—and another, and another. She begins to feel homesick and, discouraged, she returns to the lodge.

The third day when he has gone, the young woman decides it's time to leave this place. She leaves the lodge and stands alone in the woods thinking, when she hears a voice. It's an old man who says to her, "Darling, you are in danger. The man you've married is one of seven brothers. They are all great magicians and, like many people of this kind, their hearts are not in their bodies. Go back into the lodge, and in a bag that is hidden under the bed of the one to whom you are married, you will find a collection of seven hearts." She returns to the lodge, finds the bag full of hearts, and is running out with it when a voice calls to her, "Stop, stop." It was the magician. She continues to run regardless. The voice calls again, "You may think you can get away from me, but you never will." She is just then about to faint when she hears the voice of the old man once again. "I'll help you," he says and, to her surprise, he's pulling her out of the water. She hadn't known she was in the water. That is to say, that with her marriage she had moved out of the rational, conscious sphere into the field of compulsions of the unconscious.

When the man pulls her out of the water, she finds herself in the midst of a company of old men standing along the shore, all looking exactly the same as her rescuer. They are the Thunderers, powers of the upper air. She is in a transcendent realm into which she brought herself by the refusal of her suitors; only now, having torn herself away from the negative aspect of the powers, she has come into possession of the positive.

She is now in the service of the higher powers, enabling them to destroy the negative powers of the abyss. After which, she was conducted back through a rainstorm, to the lodge of her mother.

For more information, please email gallery@space15twenty.com